This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

John Fenwick
OF
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE,
Attorney at Law.

BORN AT HEXHAM 14 APRIL 1787.
MARRIED AT ALNWICK 9 JUNE 1814.

Pur. Gough Add'l Durham

No 12.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

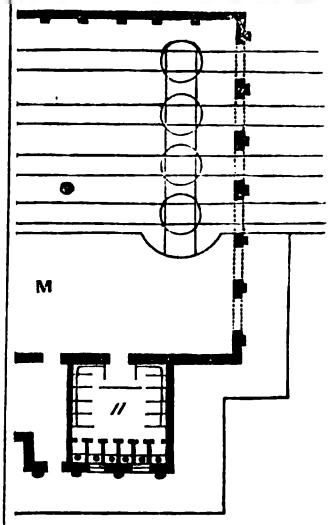
Digitized by Google

MDCCCXLV.

Digitized by Google

‹TON RAILWAY.

STATION.



mail-bags. 6. Office for parcels.

8. Staircase, leading to sitting and

The roof of the shed is of iron, and is greatly admired for its fairy grace and lightness. Surveyed from either end of the shed, it has the appearance of fancy net-work, interwoven from wall to wall. It is, in technical phrase, an M roof, and supported in the middle by a row of fourteen metal columns. The extent of the roofing may be conceived from the fact, that in fixing it together upwards of 120,000 holes had to be drilled for rivets! The whole of the work was executed by Messrs. Hawks & Crawshay, of the South Shore, Gateshead.

The shed is lighted from the roof by skylights extending the whole length of the building, and containing 9,000 superficial feet of sheet glass, weighing 15 oz. per foot, or upwards of 8,437lb!

The lead-work of the roof, the water-closets (a dozen), and other parts of the station, was done by Mr. Revely, of Pudding-chare, Newcastle, and consumed no less than 15,000 superficial feet!

The painting and glazing of the building were executed by Messrs. Cummins & Firbank, of Gateshead. We have already stated the quantity of glass that was required. The extent of the painting must be expressed neither by feet nor by yards, but by *acres*! Four acres, we believe, was about the quantity!

The slating was entrusted to Mr Lewis Forsyth, and the plastering to Mr. Ralph Dodds.

Mr. Pearson was ably and zealously seconded by all the sub-contractors, in his successful efforts to accomplish the contract within the stipulated time. His superintendent of the carpenter-work was our active and intelligent townsman, Mr. R. C. Young; and Messrs. John Pearson and E. Cook superintended the masons.

The inspector of works was Mr. William Cook, of Newcastle.

Mr. Whitfield, of York, a vigilant and intelligent ally of the architect, was clerk of the works.

The refreshment rooms have been taken by Mr. Archbold, of the Queen's Head inn, and Mr. Brown, of the Turf Hotel, Newcastle—a sufficient guarantee of the comfort and excellence of the establishment. The kitchen is fitted up with a range by Walker of York. Behind the fire there is a large boiler, which will continually hold water, and supply steam to cooking vessels of every description. There are closets near the fire, with hollow iron shelves, containing steam; so that whatever dishes are placed upon them will be kept hot. A speaking tube affords a means of communication between the kitchen and the rooms above; and when an order is given to the servants in attendance below, the article ordered—whether a cup of tea or a round of beef—is placed upon a shelf in a "dry well," and rises to the ground floor, or to the rooms above, according to the instructions given.

Digitized by Google

LOCAL COLLECTIONS;

OR

RECORDS OF REMARKABLE EVENTS,

CONNECTED WITH THE

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

1844.

☞ ONLY SIXTY COPIES PRINTED.—TO BE CONTINUED ANNUALLY.

Gateshead-on-Tyne:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM DOUGLAS, OBSERVER OFFICE.

MDCCCXLV.

Digitized by Google

BODLEIANA BIBLIOTHECA

Digitized by Google

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS.

A New Year Rarity.—On New Year's Day, Mr. Samuel Barras, of Gateshead Fell, gathered a plateful of mushrooms in his garden in the open air.

The Footpaths of Gateshead.—We have been requested to state, that a memorial is now in course of signature, urging the Town Council to rescind their proclamation against the exposure of goods for sale in the open street. It was also hinted to us that we might say a "good word" for the memorialists. But they have spoken so much better for themselves, than we could possibly speak for them, that we shall copy their own "case," and leave it with the Council and the Burgesses:—

To the Town Council of the Borough of Gateshead.

We, the owners and occupiers of shops, &c., in Gateshead, feeling aggrieved at the resolution passed at the last meeting of the Council, prohibiting the exposure of goods for sale, and so on, beg of you, the Council, to rescind such resolution, or to assign some limits where we may expose our goods, for the following reasons:—

1. That above the Half-Moon-lane the thorough-traffic is much less than below it, and the street considerably wider, and the footpath a great distance from the shops and houses.

2. That there are a great number of projections, in the shape of rails, steps, and quays. For instances:—Messrs. Barras's, Ellison's, Willis's, Emrise's, and Hymers's, the chapel-rails, and the quay all the way up the street on the one side, the old poor-house steps, Sill's, Kell's, Lister's, Price's, Akenhead's quay, and the pants, on the other.

3. That there is *no market-place* in Gateshead, to exhibit goods in and therefore we are of opinion that the carrying out of the said resolution will tend very much to send the trade of Gateshead over to Newcastle; for be it remembered, the great bulk of country-people come with an intention to purchase in Newcastle; and unless we be allowed to set our "traps" so as to catch them, there they will go, and there almost must we, in order to live, and be enabled to pay *rates, rents, &c.*; and then will the words of a neighbouring Nobleman be verified, when he said that Gateshead was but a "long, dirty street, on the road to Newcastle," without either trade or importance.

Therefore we hope that you, the Council of this borough, will see the propriety of yielding, in some measure, to the petition of your humble suitors, upon such conditions as you may think proper.

We, at the same time, would not by any means wish to obstruct that part of the street used as footpath, (which is, as before observed, a great distance from the steps and houses,) or the carriage-way; and at the same time we would remind you, the Council, that it was once recommended, at a former Council meeting, to erect permanent buildings upon the space which we now beg to be allowed to occupy temporarily, limited and conditionally.

This memorial has received several signatures, and, when mor numerously signed, will be submitted to the Town Council.

The Corn Laws.—On Monday evening, Jan. 8, the Young Men's Free Trade Association, Gateshead, met at Mr. Rickaby's; when it was resolved, that at each meeting essays be read and addresses made on the principles of Free Trade. W. Kell, Esq., was elected President, and Mr. John Robson and Mr. John Fawcett Vice-Presidents, for the ensuing year.

Fire in Gateshead.—On the night of Jan. 10, a fire broke out in the patent felt manufactory belonging to Councillor Bertram, J.P., situated near Tyne Main. The engine of Messrs. Hawks & Crawshay was speedily on the spot, and got the fire under. The Newcastle and North British engine also arrived, but was not required.

The Gateshead Bazaar for the British Schools, it will elsewhere be seen, is fixed to take place on the 27th and 28th of February. Mrs. Hugh Lee Pattinson has this week consented to preside at one of the stalls. The ladies, not only in Gateshead, but also in Newcastle and the neighbourhood, are interesting themselves in the success of the Bazaar, and the contributions are likely to be very liberal. The Duke of Cambridge, the Rev. Dr. Newton, and the Rev. James Parsons, have this week sent donations; and Mr. Hewitson, of Dean-street, has promised to exhibit his "dissolving views" at the Bazaar.

The Annual Ball for the Benefit of the Gateshead Dispensary, took place in the Assembly Room of the Grey Horse, on Thursday, Jan. 11. The arrangements on the occasion were of the most complete, satisfactory, and liberal description, reflecting the highest credit both on the worthy Secretaries (Dr. Elliot and Mr. J. P. Depledge), and on "mine host" of the "Grey Horse." There were 220 ladies and gentlemen present. Dancing commenced about ten o'clock, the ball being led off by Mr. George Crawshay and Mrs. Oxford (one of the daughters of the Mayor). Among the company were Mr. Hutt, M.P., Capt. Layard, M.P., Lord Killeen (son of the Earl of Fingal), the Mayor of Gateshead, the Mayor of Newcastle and Miss Fife, the Sheriff and Under Sheriff of Newcastle, Capt. Dinsdale, of Newsham Park, Dr. Charlton and Mrs. Charlton, Capt. and Mrs. Weatherley, Capt. Atkinson, 37th Regiment, Mrs. and Misses Collinson, of Boldon, Mr. G. H. Ramsay, Mr. and Miss Cowen, Mr. and Mrs. Beresford, Mr. R. C. Forster, Mr. and Miss Pollock, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Walker, Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Kenmir, Mr., Mrs., and Misses Swinburne, Mr. and Misses Davis, Mr. Favell, Miss Bainbridge, Mr. George Hawks, Mr. W. Crawshay, Mr. Caley, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Brockett, Mr. William and Misses Wilson, Dr. and Mrs. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Harle, Mr. Ritzema, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Eltringham, Mr. Joseph Price, Dr. and Miss Glover, Mrs. Falla, Misses Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Potts, Mr. and Miss Robson, Messrs. and Miss Watson, Mr. Scarlett, Mr. Lamb, Mr. Lange, Mr. James Smith, Mr. Revely, Mr. Marshall, Misses Train, Mrs. and Miss Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. John Greene, Mr. Geldard, Mr. J. G. Abbott, Miss Adamson, Mr. Parkinson, Mr. Beggs, Mr. Joseph Hmyers, Mr. H. Fife, Miss Newmarch, Mr. and Mrs. Colman, Mr. Matchitt, Mrs. and Misses Fairs, &c., &c. The dancing was kept up till an early hour; and the attentions of the Stewards (the Mayor, Mr. George Crawshay, and Mr. Thomas Ramsay,) as well as the music, under the management of Mr. M. Liddell, gave every satisfaction.

The Population Question.—Mr. Montgomery Martin, in the fourth part of his *Ireland before and after the Union*, (a work abounding in valuable information, and previously noticed in the *Observer*,) replies to "the allegation that by means of the Union, Ireland has been depopulated, and 'hundreds of thousands' destroyed." "An increase of population," he observes, "is a convincing test of the advancing state of a nation;" and Arthur Young stated, in 1766, that "Ireland

Digitized by Google

everywhere evinced the marks of a rapid increase of population." At the end of Elizabeth's reign, the population was estimated at not more than 700,000; and before the rebellion in 1641, at 1,456,000. Thus the population of Ireland had doubled in about 40 years; while it has only doubled in England from 1683 to the present time—a period of 150 years. In 1805, the population of Ireland was estimated at 5,395,456, and in 1812 at about 6,000,000. It is now upwards of 8,000,000, independent of nearly 500,000 Irish in England and Scotland, and a large yearly emigration—amounting, from 1831 to 1841, to 403,459.

By the general law of population, (says Mr. Martin,) there is now, however, a less rapid increase than formerly; the number of females, however, still exceeds the number of males in the proportion of 103, and until the sexes are equal, population is not stationary; nor does the population begin to retrograde until the number of *male* births exceeds those of females. Population in Ireland has increased much faster than *property*, and hence the still comparative difference in the wages and comforts of Ireland in relation to Great Britain.

The preponderating number of the female population is a sure test of augmentation and of prosperity. The relative numbers of the sexes at three periods were as follow:—

SEXES.	1821.	1831.	1841.
Males	3,341,926	3,794,880	4,019,576
Females	3,459,901	3,972,521	4,155,548
	6,801,827	7,767,401	8,175,124
Proportion of Females to 100 Males	103	104	103

In the West Indies, during slavery, the male population and male births preponderated over those of females. But since the abolition of slavery, the female births predominate. In new-peopled countries, such as America, Australia, &c., the female births predominate, and continue so, until population has reached the limit of subsistence.

When population and subsistence are at a par, the numbers of the sexes are equal; and when subsistence is below population, the male births predominate, and population is diminished to the level of subsistence.

We are as yet very imperfectly acquainted with the fixed laws that govern the increase or decrease of population; but, adopting the generally recognized assertion, that population increases in the ratio of food and comforts, it must be admitted then, as Ireland has doubled its population in less than half a century, there must have been a great augmentation of food, and of material prosperity conducive to the social advancement of a nation.

Mr. Martin, it must be admitted, has disproved the "allegation" which he undertook to refute, but whether he has, at the same time, established an improvement in the condition of the Irish people, or merely strengthened Mr. Doubleday's theory (elsewhere referred to), we cannot pretend to determine.

COAL-MINING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GATESHEAD OBSERVER.

SIR,—In the article of last week, under the head "COLLIERY ENGINEERING, ITS RISE AND PROGRESS," &c., your correspondent, Mr. M. DUNN, chronologizes the year 1815 thus:—

"In the year 1815, Mr. James Ryan appeared in this country, under the pretext of preventing accidents, by exhausting the gas by chemical and mechanical processes; and although, in the opinion of practical viewers, his schemes were entirely visionary, yet, to satisfy the public mind, Messrs. Buddle and Hill, and the Rev. Mr. Hodgson, were sent to Staffordshire, to report upon his system; and their report was entirely condemnatory of his views and propositions. His printed projects seem also to have found their way to Belgium; where, because of being less tested, they have found a much more important place in their mining annals."

Now, as the above article is said to be a revision of an essay, read by its author before the members of the Newcastle Mechanics' Institute, doubtless for their correct information, I beg permission to ask, by way of illustrating the object of my addressing you, what would be the effect, *the direct tendency* of such an essay, read by an M.D. before an institute of medical students? Had an essayist of that profession said:—

"In the year 1628, Mr. Henry Harvey *appeared in this country, under the pretext* of having made great and important discoveries in Physiology and Therapeutics, by his new theory of the circulation of the blood; but although, *in the opinion of practical* surgeons and operators, his *schemes were entirely visionary*, yet, to *satisfy the public mind*, Messrs. Primiscolus, Purisanus, and Riolianus, three eminent foreign professionals, were consulted, besides every physician of this country above 40 years of age!!! and they all, with one consent, *made a report which was entirely condemnatory* of his *views and propositions*. His printed projects [in his Exercitationes dum Anatomiem de Circulatione Sanguinis, &c.,] found their way to the Continent; where, because being less *tested* [better understood], they found a much more important place in their physiological annals."

Now what, I ask, would be the impression upon the minds of a medical auditory, by such an essay on the history of Anatomy and Therapeutics, as this insinuation upon the theory of Harvey? No doubt it would be, that it was fallacious in principle, and unworthy of notice, save as a beacon of warning from off some dangerous heresy. Now, Sir, the two paragraphs here brought into juxtaposition, are both of them, in their dry and merely history character, *equally true*. In 1628, Harvey, after the completion of his studies in Italy, came back to this country, and *pretended* to his discovery. In 1815, Ryan was invited by a philanthropic society, *because he pretended* a knowledge of *saving life*, by *curing fiery mines*. Harvey was condemned by the *practical part* of the faculty as a *visionary*. Ryan was condemned, says your correspondent, by Messrs. Buddle, Hill, & Hodgson; and the printed projects of *both* reached the Continent, and both received important coadjutors there; where their respective schemes were more *liberally* tested. But all this is but a part of the truth regarding the parties involved. It is but the *first blush* of the case. Upwards of two centuries have established the ignorance and bigotry of Harvey's detractors; and probably less than 20 years may equally expose the prejudices of Ryan's, and give him a place as high in the annals of mining, as, in comparison of the subjects, Harvey has attained in medical history.

When Mr. Ryan came to the North, in 1815, he came charged with no Utopian theory.

He *had* practically carried out, in mines, much more dangerous than any in this district, the schemes which he volunteered to put in effect here; but he was prevented all opportunity of trial, and his philanthropy was thwarted by a *report*, which, however respectable the parties were who made it, being only three in number, was afterwards condemned as "*unfounded*" by the *report* of a majority of nineteen; twenty two persons of the highest respectability connected with mining—persons of affluence and influence—having all subscribed their signatures to a resolution, "That the report made by the deputation from the Tyne was UNFOUNDED."

In the year 1816, Mr. Ryan submitted his "*scheme*," in its theory and practice, to the Society of Arts; where it was illustrated, and certified to, by the most respectable and direct testimony of those who had reaped the benefits of his system; and that, notwithstanding the defeat of his objects of humanity in the North, which was clearly laid bare before the Society, they honoured him with a reward of ONE HUNDRED GUINEAS—and then added to this munificent award their LARGEST GOLD MEDAL; and, more than all, placed him in the honourable position of a FELLOW OF THEIR SOCIETY. See an important notice of these events, in a work on the coal-mines of Durham and Northumberland, by J. H. H. Holmes, Esq., F.S.A., published in 1816 by Baldwin & Co.

Yours respectfully,

Newcastle-on-Tyne, January 11, 1844. T. HORN.

PUBLIC ROOMS FOR GATESHEAD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GATESHEAD OBSERVER.

SIR,—In so populous a town as Gateshead, a stranger is surprised to find, and a resident ashamed to acknowledge, the miserable *apologies* presented for certain PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, which, in other places, far inferior to Gateshead in extent and in importance, constitute the chief ornaments of the town. This discreditable (and yet so remediable) deficiency, is of course attributable to the close proximity of Gateshead to the "Metropolis of the North of England," as Newcastle may well be called; but, Sir, is such a state of things to last for ever? The "long, dirty lane, leading to Newcastle," is and for long has been undergoing metamorphosis; its relative importance is *now* very different from what it formerly was; and it behoves its leading men henceforward to direct SOME (if not the whole) of their wealth and influence, so as to enable Gateshead to keep pace with the many wants so very generally complained of. How are these demands on the part of the community to be gratified? Who are the parties that are anxious to see such (most unquestionable) improvements effected. And who are the parties that, by wealth and influence, are *enabled* to forward so laudable an end? Will *one* answer suffice for *both* these questions? I fear not. There are many amongst us who, no doubt, have it in their power to contribute substantially, and, strange to say, who feel keenly the wants so universally expressed, and who themselves actually complain?

Digitized by Google

but, from a too great diffidence—in some cases even culpable—they shrink from taking the initiative. Now may this barrier to the improvement of Gateshead not be overcome? By union may we not both multiply resources and divide responsibility? Such seems to be the only means we have of attaining our ends. Two or three of our institutions, shabby in appearance and deficient in accommodation—as our DISPENSARY, MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, &c.—have more or less money in hand, which assuredly could not be better employed. Their committees will perhaps be public-spirited enough *to discuss* this vitally important matter, and, if they please, to coöperate with each other, and with a variety of other parties, who would heartly join them. The thing only requires a beginning—and it is done. In the hope that others, more competent than your present correspondent, may be induced, now that the ice is broken, to make your columns the arena for an open consideration of the subject, and, by striking, to keep the iron hot until the work is finished, I remain, Sir, yours obliged,

Friday, January 19, 1844. E.

THE RIVER TYNE.

REPORT OF MR. WALKER, C.E., ON MESSRS. SMITH'S QUAY.

THE River Committee met Jan. 19, at the Guildhall, Newcastle, (W. Armstrong, Esq., in the chair,) and received *Mr.* Walker's Report—which will be submitted to the Council at the ensuing quarterly meeting. It is as follows:—

Report on the Line of Quay Wall and Embankment proposed to be constructed at Dent's Hole, by Messrs. Smith.

On the following points there is no difference of opinion:—

That Dent's Hole affords the best berths in the harbour for heavy vessels, and that it ought not to be injuriously interfered with.

That the river there being already narrow and curved, the tiers ought not to be projected further into the river, so as to interrupt the navigation of passing vessels more than they do at present.

That the roadway and stairs proposed to be made by Messrs. Smith, if an embankment be made by them, would be public improvements.

That an extension of Messrs. Smith's trade would be the probable consequence of an improvement and enlargement of their premises, and would, by the employment of more hands and more capital, be useful to the public, and particularly to the town of Newcastle.

Keeping in view the general agreement on the main points, I hope to show that there is really no difference as to the interests of the parties in working out the detail.

The witnesses in favour of the extended embankment, as last applied for by Messrs. Smith, state, as one of its advantages, that the tiers may, in consequence of it, be brought nearer to the shore than they are at present. Supposing, however, that no advantage is taken of this, and that they remain in their present position (which is as much as ought to be expected), then, adopting their opinion that the embankment will not prejudice the public occupation of Dent's Hole, and that Messrs. Smith would not object to bind themselves to this, there should be, in addition to the width of a keel for getting alongside the inner tier, a sufficient space between the tiers and the front of the new wall for at least one ship to lie to load and unload, if the premises are to be occupied as a commercial wharf, or to have her upper works repaired, if the premises are to be occupied as a shipbuilder's yard. This clear space in front of the wharf would probably be of more value to Messrs. Smith than the wharf itself: at least the wharf would be of little use, unless ships could get to it. Thus far the interests of both parties appear the same. Now, if we take 40 feet for the supposed ship, and 20 feet for the keel, it appears that 60 feet from the front of the new wharf to the inside of the tier will be about the proper width for the convenience of both parties. I do not mean that the 40 feet should be exclusively Messrs. Smith's, but that they should have the same use of it, for their purposes, as other owners similarly situated have of the river in front of their premises. The obstructions by vessels lying at their wharf should not extend beyond this, it being understood that the supposed 20 feet is to be for the convenience of vessels loading or unloading in the tiers.

Thus much for distance. Then if Messrs. Smith are to be at the expense of making the quay, I think the condition of obliging them to erect mooring-posts and mooring-rings upon and in front of it, for mooring vessels in the tiers, should be dispensed with, as being likely both to annoy them and the public, by intercepting the passage inside the tiers. In so important a place as Dent's Hole, the Commissioners [the Corporation] should have their own moorings in the river, and the mooring fast to posts and rings upon Messrs. Smith's quay should be for temporary purposes only.

Having received from Mr. Thomas Smith, pilot-master, a correct plan, made at my request by Messrs. Sopwith & Scott, to show the position of the ships in their berths in Dent's Hole, I have, upon the principles above stated, laid down upon the accompanying copy of the plan, a line which is nowhere less than 60 feet distance from the inside of the main tier.* This line I beg to recommend; and if any modification of it be thought desirable, I would strongly advise that it be made *upon principle*, and without reference to lines formerly proposed, or to the engineers who have proposed them. The line I have drawn turns out to be nearly a medium between the proposals of Mr. Anderson and Mr. Brooks, but was laid down in the way I have stated without a reference to either of them.

I feel assured, after the best consideration I can give to the subject, that there is nothing in the particular line I have recommended which will injuriously affect the general alinement of the river.

The excavation in front of the proposed quay, to at least 10 feet below low water, should, I think, be done at Messrs. Smith's cost. This will compensate in part for the diminution of the width of the water-way.

The moorings in the river should, I think, be laid down at the expense of the Commissioners.

The details, as to the roads, stairs, &c., I have not interfered with; and, in case that any agreement entered into between the parties be so made as to be legally binding and operative after the work shall be executed, will no doubt be committed to Mr. Clayton, and may safely be left in his hands. J. WALKER.

23, Great George-street, Westminster, Jan. 12, 1844.

[Mr. Walker, as was anticipated, has taken the *via media*—a "middle course." Messrs. Smith, we suspect, will decline the quay on the terms suggested.]

* To give a regular line of wall, one of the tiers, the third downwards, has been altered by me to ships of 26 feet, in place of 30 feet beam, which keeps the inner ship of that tier 6 feet further out.

IRON SHIPS.

AMONG the new employments found for iron, the most useful of all metals, must be mentioned shipbuilding. Iron was first used about the year 1810 for the construction of vessels employed in canal and river navigation. After this, the first similar employment of this material occurred in 1820, when a steam-vessel called the *Aaron Manby* was constructed at the Horsley iron-works, and made the voyage between the capitals of England and France without unlading any part of her cargo. This vessel is still in good condition, although 22 years old, never having required any repairs to her hull. In 1825, a small iron steam-boat was placed on the river Shannon, where she is now employed, in good condition. In 1832, the *Elburkah*, an iron steam-vessel, built by Messrs. Macgregor, Laird, & Co., in Liverpool, made the voyage from that port to the coast of Africa, and twice ascended the river Niger. This successful experiment led to the construction of many other iron steam-vessels. Our builder, Mr. John Laird, of Birkenhead, near Liverpool, has built 45 iron vessels, of the aggregate burden of 12,600 tons. The total number launched since 1830 is said to exceed 150. The largest iron vessel yet finished, and in use, is the *Guadaloupe*, a steam-frigate of 788 tons, carrying 68-pounders, and belonging to the Mexican government; but her dimensions are insignificant when compared with those of the *Great Britain*, now building, and nearly finished, at Bristol.

	ft.
The length of this vessel, from her figure head to the taffrail, is	330
The breadth of beam	51
The depth of her hold	31
Her draught of water, when loaded, is calculated to be	16

And her burden 3,500 tons. The engines will have a force equal to that of 1,000 horses, and will be used to keep in action, as the means of propulsion, an Archimedean screw. The draft of water will be seen not to exceed that of a first-class West Indiaman. At present, the vessel can only be considered as an experiment; and, should it fail, an abundance of ridicule will

Digitized by Google

no doubt be cast upon the projectors by men whose genius would hardly have sufficed for the invention of a wherry.

A great part of the steam navy of the East India Company consists of iron vessels, 25 of which are now in use in India, among which are the *Nemesis*, the *Phlegethon*, the *Ariadne*, and the *Medusa*—names well known to the British public, from the conspicuous part which the vessels have performed in the war with China.

The advantages of iron over timber, for naval architecture, are—the absence of "wear and tear" in the hull—no necessity for caulking or coppering—no possibilty of injury from dry-rot—greater lightness and increased capacity—and, what is of even far more importance, greater safety. When a timber-built ship takes the ground with any violent shock, the whole frame-work of the vessel is strained, and in a measure dislocated; so that, by the mere buffeting of the waves, she will, in all probability, soon be made a complete wreck; but when an iron-built vessel strikes, however violent the blow, it is only the part that is brought into collision with the rocks that will be injured. The plan of building these ships in water-tight compartments then proves its efficacy; for should the injury amount even to the tearing away of plates, the resulting mischief will only be to fill with water that particular compartment of the vessel to which the injury has occurred, so that the ship will be scarcely less buoyant than before; and experience has shown that damage of this kind is easily repaired.

The first cost of iron vessels is somewhat, but not much, less than that of timber-built vessels: their comparative cheapness results from their greater durability: after years of constant employment they are found to be as sound and as clean as when first built. Their weight, upon which depends the displacement of water, is—as a general rule—three-fifths the weight of wooden vessels of the same capacity. The weight of metal used in proportion to the burden of the ship varies, of course, with the size. A sea-going iron steam vessel will take from nine to twelve cwts. of iron per ton register. Boats intended for river traffic, which do not require an equal degree of strength, of course take a less weight of metal.

The building of iron ships is fast becoming an important branch of national industry: it is one in which our mineral riches and our great mechanical skill will secure to us a virtual monopoly.—*Porter's Progress of the Nation.*

FREE TRADE.

RICHARD COBDEN, Esq., M.P. for Stockport, JOHN BRIGHT, Esq., M.P. for Durham, COLONEL T. P. THOMPSON, and ROBERT R. R. MOORE, Esq., will visit NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE on MONDAY NEXT, the 22d inst., and attend a MEETING of the INHABITANTS of NEWCASTLE and GATESHEAD, in the NEW MUSIC HALL, Nelson-street, in furtherance of the Agitation for the Repeal of the Corn Laws, and especially of the League Fund of £100,000.

The Chair to be taken at seven o'clock. Admission to the Body of the Hall, 1s.: to the Gallery, 6d. Tickets may be had of Messrs. FINLAY & CHARLTON, Mr. M. S. DODDS, Mr. W. S. PRINGLE, and Mr. R. FLETCHER, Booksellers, Newcastle; of Mr. DANIEL LIDDELL, Carlisle-street; and at the offices of the *Gateshead Observer*, *Tyne Mercury*, and *Northern Advertiser*.

Ladies are respectfully invited to attend. The Proceeds, after paying the Expenses of the Meeting, will be applied to the League Fund.

☞ There will be a SPECIAL TRAIN from NEWCASTLE to NORTH SHIELDS after the Meeting.

THE CORN LAWS.

A FREE TRADE MEETING will be held in the Assembly Room, George Tavern, King-street, NORTH SHIELDS, on WEDNESDAY NEXT, the 24th of January, 1844, at 7 o'clock in the Evening; when COLONEL T. P. THOMPSON and R. R. R. MOORE, Esq., a Deputation from the National Anti-Corn-Law League, will address the Meeting on the OBJECTS, OPERATIONS, and SUCCESS of that benevolent and powerful Association. The Chair will be taken by HENRY MITCALFE, Esq., M.P.

Ladies are respectfully and earnestly invited to attend. Admission Free: Reserved Seats, 6d.

ADDRESS OF THE GATESHEAD FREE TRADE SOCIETY TO THEIR FRIENDS.

GENTLEMEN,—Messrs. COBDEN and BRIGHT will not be able, owing to their numerous engagements, to attend Meetings both in Gateshead and in Newcastle, as they originally intended. An AGGREGATE MEETING will, however, be held in Newcastle, on MONDAY NEXT, the 22d inst., in the New Music Hall, at 7 o'clock in the evening.

The main object of the Free Trade Meetings that are being held all over the country, at the present moment, is the realization of the £100,000 Fund—which it is important to complete, if possible, before the Meeting of Parliament, so as to have the ground clear for future operations.

Accordingly, we respectfully invite all those inhabitants of Gateshead, whose minds are made up that the Corn Laws ought to be repealed as soon as possible, to embrace the opportunity now afforded them, of helping to bring about that much desired and *once* almost-despaired-of event. Let them come and give, as they would *not* have the reflection hereafter, when the Corn Laws *are* repealed, that they approved of and rejoiced at the present agitation, and yet did nothing to help it on.

We hope to be able to announce a Gateshead Subscription. Contributions are received at the *Observer* office; where also Tickets for the Meeting are to be obtained, and any communications, addressed to our Secretary, will receive his best attention.

Signed on behalf of the Gateshead Free Trade Society,

W. H. BROCKETT, President.
GEORGE CRAWSHAY, Secretary.

Gateshead, January 15, 1844.

GATESHEAD SOUP KITCHEN. — Additional Subscriptions.

Hawks & Crawshay	£10	0	0
The Right Rev. the Bishop of Durham	5	5	0
Master and Brethren of the Trinity House, Newcastle	5	5	0
Mr. H. Smith	1	1	0
Mr. John Davidson	1	0	0
Mr. W. Johnson	1	0	0
Mr. Joshua Watson	0	10	0
Mr. W. W. Watson	0	10	0
Mr. Matchitt	0	10	0
Mr. James Clephan	0	5	0

Tickets to half the amount subscribed continue to be delivered on application to Messrs. Greene—to whom Subscriptions may be paid; also to Mr. B. Matchitt, Mr. G. Watson, and Mr. G. Bell, and at the *Observer* Office.

The Gateshead Soup Kitchen is now open, and a list of the subscribers will be found in another column. On comparing it with the Burgess Roll, we find the subscription-list woefully defective. We hope that "claims" to be "registered" will be sent in without further delay. No "objections" will be made to applicants, however small the subscriptions by which their claims to be enrolled are supported.

GATESHEAD MECHANICS INSTITUTE.—Dr. Embleton, of Newcastle, on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, Jan. 18 and 19, delivered two lectures before the members and their friends, in the town-hall, Oakwellgate, on "The Skull." The audiences were large, and highly gratified. Dr. Embleton is indeed a very agreeable and popular lecturer. He seldom uses a technical word—(never unnecessarily); and—when he cannot avoid one—he pauses to explain its meaning. His explanation of the architecture of the skull, and his exhibition of the evidences which it affords of the wisdom and goodness of its divine author, were deeply interesting. Every one readily understood the subject of the lectures, when placed before the mind so lucidly, and Dr. Embleton was frequently and warmly applauded. The thanks of the institution were voted to him by acclamation, on Wednesday evening, on the motion of Mr. Cornelius Garbutt, seconded by Mr. John Fawcett. Dr. Embleton, we understand, will shortly deliver a lecture on "The Spine."

UMBRELLA.—An article which, from the morality of society, you may steal from friend or foe, and which, for the same reason, you should not lend to either, but should borrow whenever you can.

What is the definition of the word "drunkard?"—A man who has *drunk hard*.

Digitized by Google

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NEWCASTLE.

THE annual meeting was held (Jan. 26) in the Merchants Court, (JOSEPH LAMB, Esq., President, in the chair). The following Report was read, adopted, and ordered to be printed:

"During the last year few subjects have been brought under the consideration of the Chamber, and none of much importance. A memorial was transmitted to the Commissioners of Customs, praying that the Collector and Comptroller of this port might be invested with power to grant permission for the delivery of cargoes, in certain cases, for a limited time beyond the regular hours—an accommodation granted to Liverpool, and, we believe, to some other of the principal ports in the kingdom. This application was not, however, complied with—owing, it may be supposed, to the frauds which have recently been brought to light in custom-house transactions in London, which have had the effect of causing the Board to restrict rather than relax any rule for the government of their officers.

"A petition was presented to the House of Commons, praying that Mr. Rowland Hill's plan for postoffice improvement might, at the earliest opportunity, be carried into full and complete operation; and this measure, so important to the commercial and general correspondence of the kingdom, your Committee have every reason to hope will soon be conceded to the ardent wishes of the public.

"Another petition was presented to the Commons' House of Parliament, praying that the oversea duty on coals, affecting so seriously the interests of this port, might forthwith be repealed. And here, it may be proper to observe, that a duty of 5d. per ton, or 13½d. per chaldron, is proposed to be levied, for local improvements, on the importation of coals into London—a duty which obviously must be injurious to this district, and which it will be incumbent on the Chamber to resist to the utmost of their power.

"Your Committee have had frequent complaints brought before them of the want of accommodation on the quay for the landing of perishable goods in wet weather—as well, indeed, as for the general facilities of business. Such complaints they have not the means of removing; but the subject having been referred to the consideration of the Trade Committee of the Town Council, it is confidently hoped that, with as little delay as possible, additional sheds will be erected, and the necessary accommodation afforded to the rising commerce of the town.

"An account of the receipts and expenditure for the year will be submitted to you. Our receipts amount to £122 18s. 5d.: expenditure, £245 8s. 10d. This disproportionate expenditure has been the result of circumstances not likely again to occur. The general balance in favour of the Chamber, is reduced from £425 14s. 7d., to £303 4s. 5d."

Mr. BROCKETT proposed a resolution against the proposed additional tax on coal imported into London, and also against the existing export-duty, and moved that a memorial against both be presented to Ministers, and that the Committee be empowered, in case of need, to petition parliament against these duties.—Seconded by Mr. HINDHAUGH, and carried.

Mr. RAYNE hoped a general meeting would be held, so soon as the important measures which no doubt would be proposed to parliament became known.

The officers for the ensuing year were then elected, and the meeting terminated.

GATESHEAD MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Mr. Alderman Brockett's hint, thrown out at the annual meeting, has been acted upon by himself, and by Messrs. Alderman Pollock, Archibald Freeman, George Crawshay, John Brown, James Clephan, William Kell, Thomas Pringle, Young & Sons, and Caleb Calloway. Several books have thus been added to the library. We hope that the example of the donors will be "catching." Mr. James Wilson, of Hillgate, has also intimated his intention to present the *Leeds Mercury* to the institution, every Monday; and the Poor Law Commissioners have presented to the library Mr. Chadwick's "Supplementary Report on the Results of a Special Inquiry into the Practice of Interment in Towns."——On Thursday evening next, as elsewhere announced, Dr. Nicholson, of Newcastle, will deliver a lecture to the members and their friends, on "The Theory of Dreams," in the townhall, Oakwellgate, which, we doubt not, will be very attractive. On Tuesday of the succeeding week, Mr. Hewitson, Dean-street, optician, will commence a short course on the intricate, but interesting science of Optics; and from Mr. H.'s well-known abilities as a lecturer, together with his familiarity with this subject, and the excellent apparatus he can command, his lectures are expected to be very popular.

GATESHEAD MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—On Thursday, Feb. 1, Dr. Nicholson delivered his lecture on the Theory of Dreams, in the townhall, Oakwellgate, (Henry Brady, Esq., V.P., in the chair). The room was crowded (uncomfortably so) on the occasion. A large portion of the company consisted of ladies; and we were glad to see present several of our principal families. Dr. N. was listened to throughout with marked attention; and at the close, a vote of thanks was proposed in complimentary terms, by W. Kell, Esq., and awarded by the company with enthusiastic applause.——On Tuesday evening, Mr. Hewitson will deliver his first lecture on Optics. The room in the townhall not being large enough for the "dissolving views," the long-room of the Grey Horse has been taken for this lecture; and (to cover expenses) it is intended to make a small charge for the admission of non-members, as announced in the advertisement.

GATESHEAD FREE TRADE SOCIETY.—The Society met on Monday, the 29th of January, at the Half Moon inn, at 8 o'clock, (Mr. J. Fawcett in the chair). The money not previously paid in to the Treasurer, for the Gateshead subscription at the great meeting in Newcastle, was now handed over to him, and a list of the subscribers prepared for insertion in the *League* paper. Messrs. D. Hobkirk and R. C. Wilson were elected members. Mr. T. Pringle was appointed assistant-secretary.—Adjourned to Feb. 12.

THE TRADE OF THE TYNE.

WE have been favoured with information in connection with the trade of the Tyne, which enables us to supply the following facts:—

The amount of customs-duties received at the Newcastle custom-house, last year, was £494,071
Whilst the amount in 1842 was only..... 432,787

Showing an increase in 1843 of.....£61,284

The increase is owing to the export-duty on coal, and the import duty on corn and sugar—the increase on sugar alone having amounted last year to £22,000. In the import-duties on other goods, there has been a falling-off in amount, owing to the reductions of the tariff.

To show the progress of the custom-house transactions in the port of Newcastle, we now give a table of the receipts of customs-duties there for the last nineteen years:—

1825.....	£355,751	1835.....	£289,508
1826.....	367,411	1836.....	307,274
1827.....	354,151	1837.....	413,794
1828.....	319,270	1838.....	379,360
1829.....	374,087	1839.....	464,219
1830.....	362,079	1840.....	443,294
1831.....	321,075	1841.....	410,076
1832.....	309,614	1842.....	432,787
1833.....	288,777	1843.....	494,071
1834.....	286,918		

The numbers of cargoes (in the foreign trade), entered inwards and outwards in the years 1842 and 1843, were as follows:—

	1842.	1843.	Increase.	Decrease.
Inwards....	612	708	196	——
Outwards ..	4,224	4,008	——	216*

In inward cargoes, it thus appears, there has been an *increase* of upwards of *thirty* per cent., whereas the outward shipments have experienced a *decline* to the extent of *five* per cent. The former is attributed to the corn-laws and tariff; and the latter, in some degree, to the circumstance of a larger number of vessels than usual having cleared out with coals in the early part of 1842, in order to avoid the coal-duty which became payable in July.

	Vessels.	Tonnage.
In 1842, the number and tonnage of vessels registered in the port of Newcastle were.....	1,372†	275,247
In 1843.....	1,379	277,771
Increase.....	7	2,524

The large increase of tonnage is in consequence of several small vessels having been lost, and their places supplied with vessels of larger burthen.

* The inward cargoes amounted in 1838 to 601, and in 1839 to 839; and the outward cargoes in the former year to 2,822, and in the latter to 3,160.

† Being an increase of 32 vessels over the year preceding.

Digitized by Google

THE GATESHEAD TOWN COUNCIL.

p WILLIAM KENMIR, Esq., Mayor.

ALDERMEN.	COUNCILLORS.		
p Barras, John	p Bertram, C.	p Hymers, Jas.	Robson, D.
p Brockett, W. H.	p Cummins, T.	Kent, Samuel	p Robson, J.
p Pollock, James	Dunn, Charles	p Lister, J., sen.	Smith, James
Sowerby, G.	p Edward, J.	Lister, J., jun.	Sowerby, T.
p Wilson, Thos.	p Garbutt, C.	p Potts, John	p Wilson, J. R.
p Davis, Robert		p Revely, T.	p Wylam, Ralph

[Those marked p were present.]

THE TOWN CLERK, at the quarterly meeting of Wednesday, Feb. 7, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, the MAYOR read a Report from the Watch Committee, in which there was nothing of public importance. On the motion of Mr. WYLAM, seconded by Mr. BERTRAM, it was received and confirmed.

Ald. BROCKETT presented a Report from the Railway, Bye-Law, and Parliamentary Committee, setting forth that notices had been served upon the Town Clerk respecting four intended applications to parliament for acts more or less affecting the borough, viz., an act to make a railway-station for the Newcastle and Darlington line, with approaches; and acts to cross the Tyne by the three bridges respectively devised by Messrs. J. & B. Green, Mr. Grainger, and Mr. Dobson, (the plans of the last named gentleman comprising a scheme to connect the Brandling Junction with the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway). The plans, &c., had been lodged with Mr. Stobart, the parish-clerk, who had most courteously lent them to the Town Clerk, for the inspection of the Committee and the Council, (and, during the meeting, they were lying on the table). The Report proceeded to show how each of the several projects, 1, 2, 3, 4, would affect the borough:—

1. The railway-station and approaches would interfere with the footpath in Greene's Field, the public roads from Half Moon-lane to the top of Bankwell-stairs, a branch road westward, Pipewellgate, and Bridge-street. The police-station at the end of the bridge would have to be entirely removed.

2. Messrs. Green's high-level bridge, 200 feet west of Tyne-bridge, and 85 feet above high-water mark, was intended to proceed from the entrance-gateway of the house lately occupied by Mr. E. Graham (and now by Mr. H. J. Wilson) to the Castle-garth, Newcastle. It would cross the road leading west from Bankwell-top at a height above it of 29 feet, and Pipewellgate at a height of 75 feet.

3. Mr. Grainger's would be built upon the existing bridge, at a height above the parapet of 57½ feet. The southern approach would be by an embankment commencing near the northern end of West-street. There would also be another approach in Gateshead, from the road in front of Mr. H. J. Wilson's house. Half Moon-lane was to be widened by the removal of buildings on each side. The plan involved the removal of the police-station near the bridge.

4. Mr. Dobson proposed to extend the Brandling Junction Railway by a north-westerly sweep, to the Tyne at Todd's-quay, and thence by a bridge (110 feet above high-water mark) to Neville-street, so as to connect the Brandling Junction and the Newcastle and Carlisle Railways. Half Moon-lane was to be widened, somewhat as in No. 3, but to a greater extent.

On the motion of Ald. B., seconded by Mr. CUMMINS, the Report was received; with an understanding that the subject should be further considered, when it was seen which of the four projects made their way into parliament.

Ald. BROCKETT presented a second Report from the Committee, stating that the memorial to Sir Robert Peel, on behalf of a legislative measure for the examination of masters and mates of merchant vessels, had been acknowledged by Mr. Macgregor, of the Board of Trade, with an intimation that any suggestions on the subject would be received and considered. The Committee recommended that the Council wait the introduction of the bill which the Government, it was understood, had prepared, and then take its several clauses into consideration.—Agreed to.

Mr. REVELY presented a Report from the Town Improvement Committee, comprising the "opinion" of Mr. Baines on the "case" submitted for his consideration; and also stating that the new toll-house on the Windmill-hills encroached on the Stoney Flats watering-place; that the Bensham watering-place had been filled up, planted, and enclosed, by (it was understood) Mr. Abraham Dawson, who paid no attention to a letter addressed to him on the subject; that the collectors of street-act assessment had paid-in £966 7s. 7d., being the whole sum realized by the rate of 1843; that £19 8s. 8¾d. remained in arrear, which the Committee recommended the Council to obtain (if possible) by summons; and they also recommended that the collectors receive 5d. in the pound for their remuneration.—On the motion of Mr. REVELY, the Report was received and confirmed, and a portion of Mr. Baines's "opinion" was ordered to be advertised in the *Gateshead Observer*. (See our first page.)

The TOWN CLERK informed the Council that the indictment preferred against the Brandling Junction Railway Company, founded on the nuisance arising from their three leaky viaducts in the borough, had been returned into court at the quarter-sessions a true bill. He was not aware that anything had yet been done to abate the nuisance.

Mr. REVELY presented a second Report from the Town Improvement Committee, stating that certain accounts had been examined, and recommending that they be paid. Seconded by Mr. JOSEPH ROBSON, and carried.

Mr. CUMMINS presented a Report from the Lighting Committee—of which the principal feature was a recommendation that the new road over the Windmill-hills be lighted with gas, in compliance with an application to that effect, if the Gas Company would lay down the necessary pipes.

The motion that the Report be received and confirmed was seconded by Mr. BERTRAM, and passed; and then the question was raised whether or not the road was public or private—on which a difference of opinion was expressed. Mr. REVELY complained that an old road had been altered, and this new one made, without any legal authority; and that a path had been stopped, which compelled him to go roundabout, and walk 40 yards further than before. Ald. POLLOCK and others were of opinion that the alteration was for the better; to which it was replied, that even if it were so, no man, or set of men, had a right to stop up an old road, before leave to do so was legally obtained. The discussion was brought to a close by a notice of motion from Ald. BROCKETT, that the motion be rescinded at the next meeting, unless it were shown to be in accordance with the resolution of the Council that private property be not lighted at the cost of the borough. Meanwhile, on the proposition of Ald. BARRAS, seconded by Ald. POLLOCK, the motion of Mr. Cummins to remain inoperative.

Ald. POLLOCK presented a Report of the Finance Committee, recommending that a borough-rate be made of a halfpenny in the pound, and moved its confirmation. Seconded by Ald. DAVIS.

A conversation followed between Mr. JOSEPH ROBSON and the TOWN CLERK. The watch-rate, it appears, is only levied upon those parties of the borough which have a day and night police; but, when collected, it is added to the borough-fund; and from this fund the police-expenses are paid. Thus, therefore, the whole of the borough is to some extent burdened with the expense of the police—granting (which is the case) that the watch-rate does not cover the cost. The consequence is, that the inhabitants of the outlying portions of the borough are dissatisfied. They are annoyed by racing, gambling, &c., on the Sabbath-day, there being no police to suppress the nuisance; and (so we understood Mr. Robson) they would rather be brought under the operation of the watch rate, than lack the advantage of the police.

The Alderman's motion was carried; and Mr. Robson was added to the Finance Committee, that he might acquire a closer knowledge of the financial affairs of the borough.

Mr. POTTS presented a Report from the Corporation Quay Committee, stating that Messrs. Haggie's offer of the fixtures had been declined; that those gentlemen still neglected to account for the receipts of the quay; and that Messrs. William Hymers & Co. continued to withhold the completion of their account of chalk landed thereupon.

Ald. WILSON presented a Report from the Committee "appointed to meet a Committee of three, to be appointed by the Boroughholders and Freemen, to endeavour to effect an amicable arrangement of the questions relative to the Borough Property."

"On the 26th of December last, they met Messrs. William Hymers, William Kenmir, and John Lister, the Committee appointed by the Boroughholders and Freemen, and proposed that the whole question should be submitted to the arbitration of some gentleman of station and character, not being a practising lawyer:—the submission to be by rule of court, or by such other means as would most effectually bind all the parties, and at the least expense.

Digitized by Google

"The Committee of Boroughholders and Freemen replied, that, adverting to the terms of their appointment, they found that they were deputed for the purpose of endeavouring to effect an amicable arrangement of the questions relative to the Borough Property; and being of opinion that the transfer of their office to another tribunal was not within the terms of their appointment, they could not acquiesce in the proposition of the Committee of the Council. They were disposed, however, to make some concession, in order to have the question set at rest; and although they did not admit the claim made by the Council to the Borough Property, they were willing to recommend to the Boroughholders and Freemen to pay the sum of £600 as a compromise, on the Boroughholders and Freemen being sufficiently secured from the future interference of the Council of Gateshead. "THOMAS WILSON.
"ROBERT DAVIS.
"THOMAS REVELY."

The Report was received, and ordered to be entered on the minutes of the Council.

Ald. BROCKETT then brought forward the series of resolutions which he had moved six months before, (and postponed until an amicable arrangement was attempted,) viz.:—

1. That the present state and management of the Borough Property are injurious to the interests of all parties interested therein.

2. That the inability on the part of the Boroughholders to give a legal title, renders the improvement of the property difficult, if not impossible, except on terms disadvantageous to the public, and dangerous to persons becoming either purchasers or lessors.

3. That until the question at issue between the Town Council and the Boroughholders shall be settled, either amicably or judicially, the property, as well as the funds arising from it, ought to be preserved from waste.

4. That in order so to protect the Borough Property and Funds, and in order also to show to our successors that the right of the public to the property, which has been so frequently asserted by the Gateshead Town Council, has not been abandoned, notice be given by the Town Clerk to all the present occupiers of the Borough Property to pay their respective rents to the Borough Treasurer.

5. That in order to show the Boroughholders that this Council entertains no desire to deprive them of any right to which they are legally or equitably entitled, the whole of the funds (except as provided in the next resolution) be funded, or otherwise securely invested, until the question at issue shall be arranged, and in no wise whatever be applied to corporate purposes.

6. That in the meantime (without prejudice to the claim of the public to the whole property) the Borough Treasurer be authorized to pay to each Boroughholder and Freeman who may desire to receive the same, a proportion of the rents so received, equal to that which has been occasionally paid to Boroughholders and Freemen since the year 1828.

7. That the proportion so to be paid be ascertained by a Committee, to be hereafter appointed, to be composed of three members of this Council, and three persons to be appointed by the Boroughholders and Freemen, with power to appoint an umpire in case they cannot agree.

The question (said Mr. B.) had been so frequently discussed in the Council, and, he had no doubt, so maturely considered by each member of it, that he did not intend to trespass upon the present meeting with any lengthened observations. There was one view of the subject, however, which had not been sufficiently impressed upon the Council—and one which he (Mr. B.) thought was worthy of the most deep and serious consideration. By the Municipal Reform Act, section 50, it was enacted that no person, elected as a Mayor, Alderman, or Councillor, should be capable of acting in either capacity, until he had subscribed a declaration to the effect following, viz.:—

"I, A. B., having been elected Mayor [or Alderman. Councillor, Auditor, or Assessor] for the borough of [Gateshead], do hereby *declare*, that I *take* the said office upon myself, and will *duly and faithfully fulfil the duties thereof*, according to the best of my judgment and ability."

Now this declaration (said Mr. B.) was in law tantamount to an oath—and a violation of it tantamount to perjury. The question, then, was—What was the *duty* of the Council—(not what the *interest* or the *inclination* of its individual members)—with regard to the Borough Property? This question had been put to Sergeant Talfourd (one of the most eminent lawyers of the kingdom), and on a "case," too, which had been admitted, on all hands, to be fairly and impartially drawn; and his answer had been decisive—nothing could be plainer or more positive than the language he used—and that answer was, that the management and control of the property belonged by law to the Council, the legal estate being vested in them—and that, consequently, it was their duty to receive the rents for the benefit of whomsoever might be entitled to them. On this part of the question there was no doubt—no hesitation. The duty was as plainly pointed out as language could do so. It was of no consequence whatever, therefore, in considering the matter, whether the beneficial interest belonged to the Boroughholders or to the public—in either case the legal estate was vested in the Council—the rents and profits of the property were legally receivable by no other party than the Council—the management and control of the property was one of the duties of the Council—one of those duties which one and all of the gentlemen present had taken a solemn declaration duly and faithfully to fulfil. He (Mr. B.) had no desire to deprive the Boroughholders of one farthing to which they were legally entitled—the resolutions which he now proposed provided against any such thing—he should most willingly allow the Council to pay the Boroughholders, not only a portion, but the whole of the proceeds of the property, if the beneficial interest really belonged to them; but the management and control, nevertheless, belonged to the Council, and to no other body or individual whatever; and that control was a duty which not only the Council were unable to leave unperformed, but one which they had, in effect, solemnly sworn to fulfil. The question, then, came within a very narrow compass. The Council had no right, in dealing with it, to look to the consequences. The effect of municipal control might be pecuniarily beneficial to the public at large, or it might not. The management of the property might prove a loss rather than a gain, in a money-point of view, to the ratepayers; but that did not relieve the Council from the solemn obligation they had entered into to perform their duty. Men were not sitting there, he hoped, to protect their individual interests as Boroughholders or as ratepayers, but to do their duty, honestly and faithfully, towards the constituents who had elected them, and towards the law which they were appointed to administer. In ordinary cases of trusteeship, by will or otherwise, parties had the power of refusing to act—and so had they here. They might have refused to take the declaration, and paid the penalty attached to such refusal; but the Councillors present had done no such thing—they had accepted the trust, and they had promised, as solemnly as men could do, to execute it faithfully. But, setting aside all pecuniary consideration in the matter—admitting that the beneficial interest belonged to the Boroughholders, and that not a farthing of the rents would be applicable to corporate purposes—would the management of such a property by the Council be of no advantage to the borough of Gateshead? The situation of the property was the best answer to such a question. Considering the proximity to it of the intended railway-station and high-level bridge, it would shortly become one of the most valuable and interesting localities of the borough; and on the management of it, most assuredly, depended whether it should become an ornament or a nuisance—whether it should raise or sink Gateshead in the scale of towns. He (Mr. B.) thought, therefore, that the management, irrespective of the beneficial interest, was of immense consequence to the community whom the Council represented. It was clear that it ought to be managed by some one—which was not the case at present. No man would say that the way in which the property was treated, by certain persons who were allowed to trifle with and squander it, was worthy of the name of "management." The law of England regarded certain classes of persons as incapable of managing property—minors, for instance—and lunatics. (Laughter.) Now he (Mr. B.) did not wish to insinuate that the Boroughholders belonged to either of these classes; but he thought the property could not have been worse managed by either—and he thought, further, that if a stranger were to be made acquainted with its recent history, he would be very apt to conclude that they must have belonged to the latter. (Laughter.) The duty, therefore, of the Council, was plain. There could be no mistake. No evasion could relieve them of it. They were bound, morally and legally, in common honesty and in common law, to do justice to all concerned in the property. And would they not do so, if entrusted with the management? Was it to be supposed that *they* would allow Mr. H., or Mr. B., or Mr. C., to play his "fantastic tricks," and make ducks and drakes of so valuable an estate? Would they not look to the general good of the whole, instead of sitting down to select for themselves the sunniest spots and most valuable sites in the whole property, on which to erect their habitations? Such dereliction of duty might be called "management," and perhaps might be thought very excellent *management* by certain parties, who not only did, but declared they would continue to do, whatever they pleased with the walls, and the roads, and the building-sites on the hills; but the Council, he was sure, would take a different view of the subject—neither committing such enormities themselves, nor allowing minor offenders to run off with bagfuls of rents (laughter), as

Digitized by Google

had been unfortunately the case elsewhere. As to the offer made by the Boroughholders, he looked upon it as a mere joke, and he was glad it had been so looked upon by the Council—no one having thought of it for a moment. But the duty of the Council he trusted he had clearly pointed out. He had shown that the receiving of the rents, and appropriating them to the purposes to which they might be found to be legally applicable, formed part of that duty; that it was a duty they had taken a solemn engagement to fulfil; and therefore he trusted his resolutions would receive their unanimous support.

Mr. JAMES HYMERS seconded the resolution for the adoption of the resolutions.

Ald. BARRAS observed, that they might pass the resolutions, but how were they to get possession of the property? And if they should get possession, it did not follow, of course, that the Council would manage it better than the Boroughholders. The Report presented by Mr. Potts did not say much for the stewardship of the Council. (Laughter.)

Mr. POTTS replied, that the Council could not justly be blamed for the faults of other parties.

Ald. BARRAS: But the Council might have looked after their interests sooner, and prevented what has occurred.

Ald. BROCKETT: The individual chiefly complained of in the affair of the quay, is the very individual who is at the bottom of the Borough-Property abuses.

Mr. REVELY spoke in support of the motion, and made one or two statements to show how little the Boroughholders cared for the public convenience.

There was then a division, in which Aldermen *Brockett, Davis, and Wilson, and Councillors Edward, *Hymers, Potts, Revely, and Wilson, voted *for* the motion; and Aldermen *Barras and *Pollock, and Councillors *Bertram, *Cummins, Garbutt, *Lister, sen., *Robson, and *Wylam, *against* the motion. [Those marked thus (*) are Boroughholders.]

The division, therefore, was equal. The MAYOR had declined to vote, stating that when he took office he resolved never to exercise his privilege of first voting for a motion, and then, the division being equal, giving a second or casting vote. (Applause.) But now, not having voted in the first instance, he would give his vote, and give it against the motion—which was therefore lost.

Mr. JOSEPH ROBSON presented a memorial from 101 rate-paying householders, praying the Council to modify their order on the subject of exposing goods for sale. Two or three members of the Council expressed an opinion that the privileges prayed for might be granted, care being taken to preserve the footpaths of the borough from obstruction; while others contended that if license were allowed in some instances, it would be impossible to put down encroachments in others, obstructive of the public thoroughfares.

Ald BROCKETT moved, with a few prefatory remarks, the following resolution:—

"That a Committee be appointed to inquire into the best means of protecting the interests of the poor persons, the intended objects of the bounty of Mr. Thomas Powell, who, in 1728, bequeathed the property in High-street (lately used as a parish poorhouse) for charitable purposes; either by petitioning the Lord Chancellor to appoint the Council trustees for the same, or otherwise; and that the Committee do further consider the best means of rendering the site of the Powell-property available for the purpose of erecting a townhall, police-offices, dispensary, and other public buildings thereon."

Ald. POLLOCK seconded, and Mr. CUMMINS very warmly supported the motion; and after a brief discussion, similar to the one which took place in St. Mary's vestry, it was carried almost unanimously. A committee was then appointed, consisting of Aldermen Barras, Brockett, Pollock, and Wilson, and Councillor J. R. Wilson.

The TOWN CLERK read a letter from the Rev. J. Davies, Rector of Gateshead, expressing the Bishop of Durham's readiness to contribute in aid of a better supply of water for the poor of the parish, and stating that he (Mr. Davies) would also gladly subscribe to such an object.—Referred to the Town Improvement Committee.

Ald. BROCKETT moved the adoption of a petition which appears in our "local" columns.—Seconded by Ald. WILSON, and agreed to.

The TOWN CLERK read a letter from Mr. Munro, lessee of the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, requesting the Council to bespeak a play. (Laughter.) Ald. BROCKETT proposed that the request be complied with, and that the members of the Council attend the theatre on the occasion. (Laughter, and a cry of "What play shall we bespeak?") The play we have just been rehearsing (said Ald. B.)—*Raising the Wind.* "And," said a Councillor, "the *Mayor of Garrett.*" (Laughter.) Mr. CUMMINS seconded the motion; and, on a show of hands, it was carried by a majority.—Adjourned to

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.

THE annual meeting of the Governors was held in the town-hall, on the 6th Feb., (WILLIAM KENMIR, Esq., Mayor, in the chair), when the following report was read by the Secretary:—

The Committee of the Gateshead Dispensary feel pleasure in reporting, at the close of its twelfth year, that the institution pursues its useful course with unabated energy and undiminished support.

To the medical officers whose services are so handsomely contributed to the Dispensary, and to the numerous patrons by whose munificence its pecuniary means of usefulness are provided, the Committee tender their sincere acknowledgments. It is gratifying to the Committee to state, that notwithstanding the late pressure of the times, the amount of subscriptions and donations to the Dispensary has continued as liberal as ever.

Since the last anniversary meeting, an important inquiry has been pursued in this borough, with respect to the sanatory condition of its population. The disclosures which have been made have been not less serious than surprising. Few persons, in the higher ranks of life, have been hitherto aware of the dangers to which they are exposed from the contaminated atmosphere, the filthy passages, the ill ventilated, ill-drained, and ill-watered tenements, in which their poorer neighbours are unhappily located. Now, however, that the unpleasant truth has been revealed, it may be fairly expected that immediate steps will be taken for protecting the public health, by contributing to the sanatory conveniences of the poor.

Such a coöperation with the Dispensary would be productive, your Committee are convinced, of the happiest effects on the general health of the district.

The Committee cannot, at the same time, refrain from referring to the falling-off in the number of patients which has taken place during the last two years. In the year ending Feb. 2, 1842, the number of patients by letter (exclusive of paupers) was 1,264; the following year, it fell to 955; and, last year, it was still further reduced to 828; being a decrease of upwards of thirty per cent. in the course of two years.* Had these reductions proceeded from want of confidence in, or want of subscribers to the Dispensary, they would have been much to be regretted; but, believing, as your Committee do, that they are entirely attributable to a less than usual prevalence of disease in the town, they afford cause for very hearty congratulation.

The Treasurer's Accounts were also read, showing that the receipts of the year had been £313 18s. 1d., and the disbursements £352 7s. 4d. The number of patients (including 1,121 slight cases, admitted without recommendation), during the past year, had been 1,949; of whom 1,682 were cured, 84 relieved, 24 irregular, 20 no better, 56 dead, and 83 remained on the books; making a total of 41,900 persons (exclusive of vaccinations) that had received the benefit of the Dispensary since its establishment in 1832. After thanks had been voted to the medical and other officers, and a resolution adopted limiting the number of letters to each Life Governor to four, the meeting separated.

Several friends of the Dispensary afterwards sat down to an excellent dinner at the Half Moon inn (the Mayor in the chair), and spent a highly-agreeable evening.]

* The following are the numbers in each year:—

	1841.	1842.	1843.
Total number of patients (exclusive of casualties)	1,755	1,413	828
Deduct paupers	491	458	none
	1,264	955	828

Decrease in 1842, as compared with 1841 309
Decrease in 1843, as compared with 1841 436

An Oratorio (by permission of the Bishop of Durham, and under the patronage of Lord and Lady Ravensworth,) was performed in St. John's church, Gateshead Fell, on Monday, Feb. 5, before a crowded and highly respectable assembly. Mr. Ions presided at the organ; Mr. Liddell led the orchestra; and the whole of the performances, vocal and instrumental, gave the highest satisfaction. The pieces chosen were from the "Creation," "Messiah," and "Stabat Mater." All were so deserving of praise, that we refrain from particularizing individual performers. Among the company present were the Hon. Thomas and Mrs. Liddell, the Hon. Miss Liddell and a party, the Rev. Mr. Douglas and Lady, Lord Killeen, Colonel

Digitized by Google

Bradshaw, Mrs. Collinson of Boldon, the Rector of Gateshead Fell, Rev. Mr. Bewsher, and a great number of the principal inhabitants of Gateshead and Gateshead Fell. The proceeds of the oratorio are to be applied to the repairs of the church.

NEW TAX ON COAL.—The Town Council of Gateshead, on the 7th of Feb., adopted the following petition to the House of Commons against the proposed city-dues, and the existing export-duty, on coal:—

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Gateshead,

Humbly sheweth,—That it has been represented to your petitioners that a project is on foot for further adding to the burthens, which, from time to time, have been imposed upon the coal-trade, by increasing the city-dues already payable on the importation of coal into London, from thirteenpence to eighteenpence per ton, for the purpose of improving the metropolis by certain embankments of the Thames.

That the duties already levied on coal, are notoriously partial and ruinously oppressive.

That, besides the city-dues, the coal-trade has to struggle against an export-duty, not only enormous in amount in proportion to the value of the article, but one from which every other production of the kingdom (not excepting machinery itself) is entirely, and justly, exempt.

Your petitioners therefore pray that your Honourable House will discontinue any attempt to increase the dues payable on the importation of coal into London; and, also, that your Honourable House will repeal, without delay, the partial and oppressive export-duty at present in operation.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Given under the common seal of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Gateshead, in Council assembled, this 7th day of February, 1844. W. KENMIR, Mayor.

THE NEWCASTLE TOWN-COUNCIL.

p Sir JOHN FIFE, Mayor.

ALDERMEN.	p Ingledew, H.	p Taylor, F.	*St. John.*
Batson, T. R.	Straker, G.	p Rayne, C.	p Cookson, Wm.
Bell, Thomas	p Harle, W. L.	*W. All Saints.*	p Radford, J.
Bigge, C. J.	p Robinson, R.	p Ormston, J.	p Plues, Matthew
Brandling, J.	p Stokoe, S.	p Parker, A.	Charnley, E
p Carr, John	*N. St. Andrew.*	p Sillick, J.	p Brown, William
p Donkin, A.	p Archbold, J.	Carr, J. T.	p Burre'l, I.
p Dunn, G. T.	p Philipson, R. P.	p Proctor, W. B.	*Westgate.*
Headlam, Dr.	p Keenlyside, T.	p Hall, Edward	Hawthorn, R.
p Hodgson, J.	p Dodds, Ralph	*E. All Saints.*	p Finlay, James
Lamb, Joseph	p Blackwell, J.	p Ridley, John	p Bargate, George
p Losh, James	p Dunn, Thomas	p Hunter, John	*Jesmond.*
p Potter, A. L.	*S. St. Andrew.*	p Lowrey, S.	p Armstrong, W.
p Nichol, A.	p Weatherley, J. D	Crawhall, J.	p Plummer, R.
COUNCILLORS.	Gray, A. G.	p Shield, Henry	p Turner, Henry
St. Nicholas'.	Sanderson, F.	p Turner, Wm.	——
p Nichol, John	p Jobling, M. L.	[Those marked p were present.]	

AT the quarterly meeting of February 7, Priscilla Newton, aged 71, was elected from 28 candidates, to fill a vacancy in Jesus' Hospital.

After some conversation, the disposal of five loans of Sir T. White's charity was deferred to the next meeting.

Mr. HENRY TURNER moved the confirmation of the Report of the High-Level Bridge Committee, recommending the Council to grant £1,000, and surrender property nearly of the same value, in aid of the bridge from Greene's Field, Gateshead, to the Castle-garth, Newcastle. Mr. PHILIPSON seconded the motion.

Ald. DUNN moved, as an amendment, that the Report lie on the table. Seconded by Mr. ORMSTON.

Ald. HEADLAM, Ald. HODGSON, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Ald. NICHOL, Mr. HALL, Ald. POTTER, and the MAYOR, supported the original motion. Ald. LOSH, Mr. PROCTOR, Mr. PLUES, Mr. HARLE, Mr. BLACKWELL, Mr. C. RAYNE, and Mr. PLUMMER, were favourable to postponement. The amendment was negatived by 30 votes against 13. The original motion was then put and carried.

FIRST DIVISION.

For Alderman Dunn's Amendment.—Aldermen Dunn, Batson, and Losh; and Councillors Robinson, Nichol, Harle, Burrell, Proctor, Ormston, Rayne, Blackwell, Archbold, and Plummer.

Against the Amendment.—The Mayor; Aldermen Headlam, Donkin, Potter, Hodgson, Nichol, and Carr; and Councillors Stokoe, Ingledew, Brown, Cookson, Radford, Hall, Parker, Sillick, W. Turner, Shield, Ridley, Hunter, Lowrey, Taylor, Weatherly, Jobling, Dodds, Dunn, Philipson, Bargate, Finlay, H. Turner, and Armstrong.

SECOND DIVISION.

Against the Original Motion.—Ald. Losh, and Councillors Proctor and Plummer.

Neutral.—Alderman Dunn and Batson, and Councillor Plues.

For the Original Motion.—All the other Aldermen and Councillors named in the first division, (27 in number).

On the motion of Mr. HARLE, leave was granted to Mr. M. Dunn to erect his proposed hoisting apparatus (not at Jarrow quay, but) at Willington grains.

Mr. ARMSTRONG presented Mr. Walker's Report—which was received. Mr. A. intimated that he should move, at the next meeting, the sealing of the license already granted to Messrs. Smith.

The Council unanimously adopted a petition against the proposed new tax on coal imported into London.

The motion of Mr. PLUES, seconded by Mr. PHILIPSON, for a grant of £100 to the parochial soup-kitchens, was superseded by Mr. PHILIPSON's amendment, to divide the grant between the general and the parochial kitchens.

DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

THE REV. JOHN DAVIES, B.D., Rector of Gateshead, presided on Thursday, Feb. 15, at a meeting of the subscribers and friends of the Institution for Training Female Servants, established on the Windmill-hills, in this borough. The reverend gentleman, after noticing the origin and purposes of the society, explained that its annual income had for some time past been insufficient to meet its yearly expenditure, and that its conductors had consequently been under the necessity of from time to time encroaching on the capital which had originally been provided for it, and which was now so considerably reduced, that unless efficient means were immediately provided for its continuance, the society must cease to exist—a circumstance which, considering the importance of its objects, and the good effects which had already resulted from it, he should much deplore.

Mr. KELL read a long Report from the Committee, and moved a resolution in approbation of the institution; which was seconded by Mr. GEORGE RICHARDSON, and carried.

The Rev. Mr. SPECK moved the second resolution, affirming the title of the institution to public support, and suggesting the following modifications of its rules:—1. A Patroness, President, four Vice-Presidents, and Committee to be elected. 2. The Committee to consist of six gentlemen and eighteen ladies—half of each number being resident in Newcastle, and the other half in Gateshead; also half of the ladies and half of the gentlemen to be members of the Church of England, and the remainder to be members of other denominations of Christians. 3. The Matron, or Assistant Matron, to be a Churchwoman, and attend church twice every Sunday, accompanied by those girls whose parents do not object to the arrangement.—The other Matron to accompany the other girls to such place of worship as the Committee may determine. [The remainder of the resolution related to "internal regulations."]

The motion was seconded by Mr. JOHN FAWCETT, and carried.

Mr. HENRY BRADY proposed that Lady Ravensworth be Patroness for the ensuing year; the Mayor of Gateshead, President; the Mayor of Newcastle, the Rector of Gateshead, the Rev. John Collinson, A.M., and the Rev. R. C. Coxe, M.A., Vice Presidents; Mrs. Davies, Treasurer; Miss Verty, Secretary; Mrs. Abbot, Mrs. Akenhead, Mrs. Barras, Mrs. Coulthard, Mrs. J. Greene, Mrs. Glaholm, Mrs. Kell, Mrs. Swinburne, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Nesham, and Misses Chapman, Chaytor, Bargate, Milner, S. Forster, Richardson, and A. Richardson, Ladies' Committee; and Messrs. Chapman, Kell, Finlay, J. Greene, Fenwick, and I'Anson, Gentlemen's Committee.

Mr. G. HAWKS having seconded the motion, it was passed by the meeting; and it was then resolved, on the motion of Mr. BROWN, (being an amendment on the ninth rule of the institution,) that the girls be allowed to go to the houses of subscribers only, of not less than 10s. a year, to assist in household work, at the charge of sixpence a-day; and that they be dismissed in sufficient time to allow of their arrival at the institution by 8 o'clock. No girl to be sent out to labour on the Sabbath-day. Five girls, at the least, to be kept at home, for household work. The first applicants to be entitled to the services of the others.

Thanks were voted to the Rector for his services in the chair, and the meeting separated.

Mr. C. J. Pearson, our fellow-townsman, has obtained the contract for building the great railway-station in Greene's-Field, Gateshead, and four or five other stations on the Newcastle and Darlington Railway, all of which are to be completed within little more than three months! Mr. Pearson commenced operations on Thursday, February 15.

Digitized by Google

THE GATESHEAD BAZAAR.

THIS event—(for an "event" it is, and one of no trifling mark, in the history of our ancient borough)—is now numbered with "the things that were." It has long been a subject of hope and anticipation, mingled with anxieties and doubts, among our good Gatesiders and their neighbours; and now that it has passed away, we rejoice that it is in our power to report the full success of the experiment.

The origin of the Bazaar is not, perhaps, generally known. We may state, therefore, that the British Schools for Boys and Girls, first established in Gateshead by our benevolent townsman, Mr. R. H. Haggie, had never obtained an income adequate to the cost of their maintenance; and, consequently, the Treasurer (Mr. H. himself) was week after week advancing money from his own resources. To remedy so undesirable a state of things, the friends of education held a public meeting in the Wesleyan chapel (over which the Borough Member presided), and resolved to make an effort to raise the income of the schools to a level with their expenditure.

Afterwards, a suggestion was made to hold a Bazaar, for the purpose of clearing off the debt due to the Treasurer. Many cautious friends of the institution shook their heads, and expressed grave doubts of the prudence of the project; but Mr. John Fawcett and Mr. Joseph Clephan offered to take it in hand, if the Committee of the Schools would give them their sanction and auspices. The Committee readily consented, and no time was lost by the two projectors in forwarding the work which they had undertaken. Avoiding the error too commonly committed on such occasions, they did not vex and embarrass themselves by endeavours to obtain an imposing and empty array of "distinguished patronesses," but placed the Bazaar under the substantial patronage of the ladies of Gateshead—Mrs. Mayoress kindly consenting to head the list. Friends were found in abundance—much more so than even the sanguine Secretaries had themselves anticipated. Their project, therefore, expanded day after day, and the doubts of the most sceptical were soon dispelled.

To speak too highly of the zeal and industry displayed by hundreds of ladies, in promoting the success of the Bazaar, would be impossible; and if we mention no names, it is only because we would shun all appearance of invidiousness. It will sufficiently attest the extent of their benevolence, if we state that the Bazaar Committee, appointed after some progress had been made by the Secretaries, were compelled to abandon their arrangement with Mr. Blagburn, of the Grey Horse inn, from a conviction that his "long room" would neither be long enough nor broad enough for the occasion—(the worthy landlord promptly releasing them from the engagement into which they had entered). The generous offer of the Wesleyans, that the Bazaar might be held in their school-room in High street—(the largest room in Gateshead)—free from all charge, and even with gratuitous gas into the bargain—had previously been accepted most gladly by the Committee. The school, they found, was twice the size of the room at the Grey Horse, and, on the whole, well adapted for the object they had in view.

When the appointed days drew near—Tuesday and Wednesday, the 27th and 28th of February—two new fears seized the minds of the Committee. The *contributors* were beyond all expectation numerous, but the *customers*—where were they to come from in corresponding numbers? This was the first fear: the second was the weather. A snow-storm had set in, and threatened to smother the project. On Sunday and Monday, the 25 h and 26th, the snow was heavy and almost incessant. Coarser days we have seldom seen; and much older men than ourselves confessed, that the "good old winters" of their youth, of which we hear so much, could hardly parallel the pitiless severity of Sunday. Monday, as Mark-lane "men of letters" would say, was "the turn better;" and Tuesday—the first day of the Bazaar—was better still. The weather, indeed, seemed inclined to be on its good behaviour; and, for a "snow-storm," it did not behave amiss.

Temporary wooden steps had been placed in High-street, that visitors might get the more readily upon the "quay;" and over the entrance of the lane leading to the school-door, there was a wooden arch, inscribed "GATESHEAD BRITISH SCHOOLS BAZAAR," and ornamented with evergreens. The school itself was also tastefully adorned with evergreens, kindly supplied by Christian Allhusen, Esq., of Elswick House, Newcastle, and arranged under the superintendance of Mr. Charles I'Anson, of the firm of I'Anson & Finney, nurserymen, Gateshead. Oranges were disposed among the leaves with good effect, and also a number of artificial roses, skilfully constructed by Mrs. Dickinson and Miss Rowntree, daughters of Mr. William Rowntree, of Claremont place. The arch in the centre of the room, and that at the further end, were much admired.

There were eleven stalls fitted up for the sale of goods—five on each side of the room, and one at the end opposite the door. There was also, on the right of the entrance-porch, a printing press from the *Observer* office; and on the left there was a "post office," for the reception and delivery of letters during the Bazaar. The fittings-up were committed to the care of Messrs. Young & Son, builders, and very creditably executed, considering the shortness of the time allowed for the work—which was little more than one day.

At an early hour on Tuesday morning, the fair stall-keepers began to deck their stalls with their wares. Most of them were free gifts, but many articles were manufactured by the ladies themselves and friends at the cost of the Bazaar—time, and skill, and labour, however, being given without charge. And the cost of materials, and also the other expenses of the undertaking, we may here observe, were in great part covered by the liberality of pecuniary donors—(the names of whom, as their gifts were from time to time received, have already appeared in our columns).

At 11 o'clock in the forenoon, the public were admitted—adults paying 1s., and young persons 3d. The admission tickets were so constructed that they might readily be divided into two parts—the holder delivering one part to a stall-keeper in the purchase of goods, and retaining the other as a "pass-ticket" during the remainder of the day.

Within a few minutes of the opening of the doors, all fears of the success of the Bazaar were at an end. The attendance was all that could be wished, and purchases were freely made. The visitors were warm and unqualified in their praises. Our Newcastle friends—of whom a large number were present—expressed much surprise that so admirable a Bazaar had been got up so quietly, and with so little "patronage."

The number of stalls, we have stated, was eleven. Were we to attempt a description of each stall, we should fail in doing justice to the rich result of the exertions made by the fair caterers. We shall therefore only trust ourselves to venture on a brief notice of the various stalls; premising, too, that all omissions of donors' names must be imputed, not to the stall-keepers, but to ourselves. Want of time has prevented us from obtaining a complete list of contributors.

No. 1.—This was Mrs. W. H. Brockett's stall, and was also attended by Miss Rutherford and Miss Sarah Wilson. It was placed at the high end of the room, on the left-hand side.—One of the most liberal contributors to its contents was the Countess of Strathmore. An ottoman, and a magnificent smoking cap, were among the more attractive articles at this stall. Miss E. Blakeway, of Surrey, was also a handsome donor.

Nos. 2 and 3.—These stalls, like Matthews's "two single gentlemen rolled into one," were "one concern," and enjoyed the joint-care of Mrs. Swinburne and Mrs. H. L. Pattinson. Their assistants were "Legion"—Mrs. Weatherley, Mrs. and Miss Burnett, Miss Singers, Miss Swan, and six Misses Swinburne, aiding them in the sale of their merchandise. Here, also, the Countess of Strathmore had been a contributor—one of her ladyship's donations being a cashmere bag, beautifully tamboured with gold. Mrs. Collinson, the wife of our late worthy Rector, had also sent Mrs. Swinburne several valuable gifts—(thereby following the good example of the liberal Bishop of the Diocese—who, when an appeal was made to the public for the relief of the British Schools from their embarrassments, was the first to transmit a donation of ten guineas). Capt. Weatherley presented to Nos. 2 and 3 a rich pincushion, made from one of the Queen's dresses. Mrs. Stanley, of Bensham, among other things, gave a splendid mouchoir case. Mr. Newall contributed several articles, including a few coils of gold and silver wire, for hanging pictures—a new and handsome fabric, invented by the ingenious donor, and eagerly purchased by the visitors to the Bazaar. Mr. C. Garbutt, of Gateshead, and Mr. George Moor, of Newcastle, were also liberal friends to Mrs. Swinburne and Mrs. Pattinson's twin-stalls; likewise, Mrs. Hancock, Streatham, Surrey; Messrs. G. & W. Lawford, Down's-hill, London; and Mrs. Forster, Crowhill, Mansfield.

Digitized by Google

No. 4.—We may call this the Friends' stall. It was attended by Mrs. Charles l'Anson, Mrs. Dickinson, and Miss Rowntree. The donors were numerous, and the collection of articles of a very miscellaneous character. Among the contributors were: Mrs. Edward, Mrs. John, Miss Ann, and Miss Ellen Richardson, Miss Priestman, Mrs. Rooke, Mrs. Joshua Watson, Mrs. W. W. Watson, Miss Margaret Morton, Miss Brady, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Henry Lotherington, Miss Tindall, Mr. John Robertson, Mr. Sanderson Walker, Mrs. H. Walker, Mrs. Joseph Watson, Miss Isabella Smith, Mrs. Hartley, Mrs. Dixon (Percy street), Mrs. Charles Bragg, Mr. Young (Arcade), and Mrs. William Beaumont, all of Newcastle or Gateshead; Mrs. l'Anson, Bishop Auckland; Mrs. B. Lotherington, N. Shields; Mrs. Alletson, Liverpool; Mrs. and Miss l'Anson, Darlington; Miss Dorothy Brown, North Shields; and Mrs. and Miss Coventry, Misses Clay, Miss Freeth, Mrs. Rutter, Miss Starges, and Miss Capper, London.

No. 5.—This was the first stall from the door, and on the left-hand side in entering the room. The stall-keepers were Mrs. James Clephan, Mrs. Joseph Clephan, and Miss Hutton, of Hutton's-court, Pilgrim-street. Among the articles offered for sale, the chief attractions were the hat and bonnets of the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and the Princess Alice, being exact duplicates of those made for the Queen by Mrs. Lowes, of Stanmore, Middlesex. Mrs. Lowes made a free gift of them to the Bazaar—intimating, at the same time, that the pattern and fabric were registered under the statute for the protection of designs. They were all much admired, especially the Prince's hat, with its graceful plumes of feathers. The whole three were sold; together with several miniature models of bonnets, also presented by Mrs. Lowes. Two elbow-cushions, and a bag, worked by the Misses Dunn, of Buccleuch-place, Edinburgh, and two other elbow-cushions, worked by Miss Hutton, competed with the royal bonnets for the admiration of visitors; also an exquisite cushion, wrought by Mrs. W. L. Harle. Two or three "Newhaven Fishwives," each with a spirit-bottle smuggled beneath her garments, amused the visitors. Mrs. Walker Swan and Mrs. T. Atkinson, of Sedgwick place, Mrs. Joseph Hymers, Mrs. W. & T. Douglas, Mrs. Sharp, Mrs. Sill, Mrs. John Shield, Dr. Clanny, and Mrs. T. H. Spence, were contributors to the stall; also Mr. Robert Topliff, London; Mrs. W. Fielding, Misses Harris, Gittins, How, and Coltman, and Mr. Edwin Clephan, Leicester; Mrs. Church, Sileby, Leicestershire; Miss Johnson, Nottingham; Miss Alcock, Manchester; Misses Clephan, Edinburgh; Messrs., Mrs., and Misses Clephan, Stockton; and Miss Mellanby, Norton. An elegant fancy-basket, the gift of Miss Ridley, of Picton-terrace, was "snapped up" before it had well been exposed for sale.

No. 6.—This, the first stall on the right, was attended by Mrs. Boyd, Mrs. Vickers, Miss Elliot, and Miss Featherstone. Miss F. was remarkably assiduous and successful in levying tribute from the friends of the Bazaar, and deserves the especial thanks of the Press; inasmuch as she devoted herself more particularly to the sale of the several poetical pieces printed in the room. Among the contributors to the stall were Mr. and Mrs. Reed, of Westmorland-street; Mrs. A. Parker, Ellison-street; Mrs. Dixon, Miss Smith, Miss Colvin, Mrs. W. L. Harle, Mr. Brown, and Mrs. T. Coulthard, West-street; Mrs. Scotland, Mr. and Miss Ingo, and Miss Hood, Windmill hills; Mrs. Andrew Annandale, Westgate-street; Miss Hancock, Barras-bridge; Messrs. Kimpster, Sandhill; Mrs. Lawson, Eldon-street; Mrs. Hopper, High-street; Mrs. Joseph Arundale, Leazes-terrace; and Mrs. Richard Cook.

No. 7.—Mrs. D. Haggie, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Ions, and Miss Eliza Bennett, were the ladies in charge of this stall. Its most conspicuous ornament (excepting, of course, the fair amateur-merchants,) was a magnificent Chinese temple, constructed by Mr. Joshua Watson, jun., and presented to the Bazaar. Mr. Johnson, of Claremont-place, made a donation of a fine oil-painting; and several pencil and water-colour drawings, executed by the boys of the school, were for sale on the stall. Mrs. W. and Misses Gibson, Miss Cowen, Blaydonburn, Mrs. Angus, Sedgwick-place, Mrs. C. Garbutt, Mrs. and Miss Ions, Mrs. R. H. Haggie, and Mr. Hay, were donors to the stall.

No. 8.—Mrs. Robson, Mrs. George Robson, and Miss Bell, were here the ladies in attendance. A gorgeous crimson velvet couch-cushion threw into the shade every other article, and would fain have monopolized all the attention of the visitors. It was the gift of the Misses Appleton, of Yarm, by whom it was made for the Bazaar. Misses Reed, Yarm, Miss Thompson, Middlesbro', Miss Henderson, Wrekenton, Mrs. Oates, Barrington-place, Mrs. Marshall, Woodbine-terrace, Misses Henderson, High-street, Mr. W. Alder Dunn, Newcastle, Mr. H. Thompson, Middlesbro', Mrs. Morrow, Union-row, Mrs. Kimpster, Sedgwick-place, Misses Hall, Woodbine-terrace, Mrs. Morland, Walker-terrace, Mrs. and Miss Russell, Waterloo-terrace, Miss Dunn, Waterloo-terrace, Miss Kimpster and Misses Fenwick, West street, Mr. Young, Ellison-street, Miss Heslop, High-street, Miss Scott, High-street, Mr. Swan, Albion House, Mr. Brown, Grey-street, Miss Burn, Sheriff Hill, Mrs. Rouse, Ellison-street, Mrs. Cummins, West-street, Miss Berkeley, Felling, Mr. W. and Miss Wakinshaw, Byker, Mrs. Cross, Blenheim-street, Miss Hewson, Forth-place, Miss Welton, Grosvenor-street, Miss M. A. Pearson, High-street, Miss D. Aydon, Blackett-street, Miss C. Ingham, North Shields, and Mrs. Rogerson, Oxford-street, were among the contributors to No. 8.

No. 9.—This was Mrs. and the Misses Coulthard's stall. Miss Panton, of Sunderland, and Mrs. Reay, of Carville, were also in attendance. The main feature of No. 9 was its multitudinous population of dolls—and a very pretty community they were. One of the number—a beautiful wax doll—was generally admired; and one young gentleman, it is whispered, (like the lady who was smitten with the statue,) absolutely fell over head and ears in love with Miss Doll, and was nettled that she also did not "wax" warm, when he paid his addresses to her!

No. 10.—This stall fronted Mrs. Brockett's, and had a host of attendants—aye! and of customers, too. The stall-keepers were Mrs. Brady, Mrs. W. W. Watson, Miss Brady, Miss Mary Brady, Miss F. Bernett, and Miss Sophia Binns. We can hardly here, as in No. 7, make a gallant exception in favour of the fair vendors, and speak of the commodities on sale as secondary objects of attraction. Truth demands the confession, that the "mutton pies, all hot!" the cakes and the coffee, the jellies and the custards, on sale at No. 10, were more magnetic than even the neat-handed nymphs who supplied them. Their trade throve most prosperously. If any visitor failed to pay his respects to this or that stall, it was never No. 10 that was overlooked. It was here, chiefly, that the young folks "presented" their threepenny "checks," and had them "honoured" in buns and sweetmeats; and the larger "paper-money" of the adults was also paid-in, to a great extent, at the refreshment-stall. The contributors to the "supplies" were numerous, and included Messrs. R. Davis, Sisson, Fairs, Petch, Sill, R. Wilson (Side), Garlick, Henderson (Pilgrim-street), Rickaby, Hopper, Hewitt, Garbutt, Michael Greene, Joseph Price, and Blagburn; Messrs. Brown & Taylor, Jackson-street; Messrs. J. & M. Bell, Pilgrim-street; Messrs. Walker, Percy-street; Mrs. Joseph Lindsley, Washington; Mrs. T. Swinburne, Mrs. Brady, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Capt. Weatherley, Mrs. G. Burnett, Mrs. W. W. Watson, Mrs. John Potts, Mrs. Joshua Greene, jun., Mrs. Abbot, Mrs. Colman, Mrs. Akenhead, Mrs. Falla, Mrs. Train, Mrs. Joseph Clephan, Mrs. Robinson, Claremont-place, Mrs. Joseph Hymers, Mrs. George Robson, Miss Murray, and Miss Shotton.

No. 11.—A flower and plant stall. This was furnished by Messrs. l'Anson & Finney, for the decoration of the Bazaar, and occupied a position at the end of the room, beyond Mrs. Brockett and Mrs. Brady's stalls—with which it stood at right angles. The proprietors liberally allowed the Bazaar Committee to sell the plants, and appropriate a handsome per centage for the benefit of the schools.

The "Press" occupied a corner of the room near the door, near to No. 6, and was almost continually at work, printing poetical pieces, some of them written expressly for the Bazaar. The following lines were in great request by purchasers:—

THE GATESHEAD BAZAAR.

Kind friends, you are hereby respectfully told,
That, before the month closes, there is to be sold,
In this spacious apartment, so airy and neat,
The school of the Wesleyans, in Gateshead High-street,
A splendid collection, deserving attention,
Comprising whatever is new in invention,
Unique in design, in needlework exquisite:
In short, you'll be sure to find all that is requisite,
In articles gather'd from near and from far,
For "raising the wind" at our Fancy Bazaar.

Digitized by Google

Here are ALBUMS for ladies who write pretty tales
In verse or in prose, as the humour prevails,
Or who bore all their friends a few lines to compose,
Or to sketch them a tumbledown-hut or moss-rose.
We have SKETCHES for scrap-books, both landscapes and flowers;
Also puzzling ENIGMAS, to charm the dull hours.
Here! CUFFS for the sleeves, to set off a neat hand:
There! CAPS of all patterns—smart, modest, and grand.
THREAD PAPERS; PINCUSHIONS (round, oblong, and square);
Neat SAMPLERS; and PATTERNS OF WORK, rich and rare;
NEEDLE BOOKS and WORK BASKETS, in all kinds of shapes;
EMBROIDER'D NECK RIBBONS, and beautiful CAPES!
ELBOW CUSHIONS, CASTOVERS, and APRONS so neat;
HAND SCREENS, to protect from the fire's glowing heat;
SILK PURSES, from ladies who know how to knot 'em;
And BAGS—you would wonder wherever we got 'em;
For we've scores of all kinds you can possibly mention,
With many unheard of—so new the invention.
Some glisten with gold—others glitter in sheen
Like the moon or the stars—and would grace e'en the Queen.
Yes! thanks to the kindness of friends, our stalls groan
With all sorts of FANCY WORK, known and unknown:
The show which you see, 'twould be difficult matching,
Such stitching and weaving, such painting and patching!

Nor alone ornamental the gifts we have got:
Of articles useful, we have a large lot.
NIGHTCAPS and smart DRESSING GOWNS; POCKETS FOR WATCHES;
RING STANDS, too, and TOILET TRAYS; BOXES OF MATCHES;
SOAP, LIP SALVE, TOOTH POWDER, and EAU DE COLOGNE;
COLD CREAM, and BEARS' GREASE from the cold arctic zone;
NEWHAVEN FISHWOMEN, (with whom, by the bye,
You can have a "wee drop," if you like, on the sly);
SCARFS, COMFORTERS, STOCKINGS; MITTS, MUFFETEERS, MUFFS;
SOCKS, PETTICOATS, PINAFORES; BABY CLOTHES, RUFFS;
And——what we had fail'd in our Bustle to hint:
You may guess what we mean:—'tis already in print.

To the wishes, the wants, and the whims of the Fair,
Due attention we've paid, but have given our care
Not solely to them; for the Lords of Creation
Have not been forgotten on this grand occasion.
We have WAISTCOATS to sell them, so skilfully wrought,
You would think by Dame Nature the flowers had been brought,
And arranged by her hand for the Gateshead Bazaar,
Forms and colours are all so rich, beauteous, and rare.
We've luxurious PILLOWS for ease-loving men,
Who in chair or on sofa would loll now and then.
Soft FOOTSTOOLS to match—any size that they please;
And SLIPPERS combining both beauty and ease.
PENKNIVES, with PORTFOLIOS for holding old papers;
PENWIPERS, BOOKMAKERS, and handy WAX TAPERS.
We can also supply a WATCH GUARD or WATCH STAND,
An ENVELOPE CASE, or fine GLOVES for the hand.
We have BOOKS for the house—for the streets a nice STICK;
And PURSES we've plenty, their pockets to pick!
If married they are, and fruitful their homes
With young "olive branches," Dicks, Annies, and Toms,
A treat we've in store for their dear, darling girls,
In DOLLS with red cheeks and luxuriant curls:
All in the tiptop of the Fashion they're dress'd,
With blue eyes and black eyes, whiche'er they like best.
And see what a treasure of GAMES and of TOYS
We here have on sale, to delight little boys;
With STORY BOOKS, too, such as "Sandford and Merton,"
And "Jack and the Beanstalk," and droll "Gammer Gurton."

Collectors of AUTOGRAPHS, too, may enlarge
Their highly prized stores at a trifle of charge.
The kind Duke of Cambridge—the witty Tom Hood—
Montgomery of Sheffield—Father Mathew the good—
Our fireside friend, the benevolent Box
(I know but one rhyme for his name—and that's pox!)—
Richard Cobden—John Bright—Martineau (honour'd name!)—
Hannah—Newton—and Parsons—with others, to Fame
Well known in our isle—have each sent us a line,
An offering sincere at Philanthropy's shrine.

CASTS of the MEEK ONE, we also have here;
And of "him whom He loved" with affection most dear.
Of SEALS we have scores, executed express
For our stalls—and all cheap you will frankly confess:
Of the Good and the Great the impress they bear,
Or a text which a man in his bosom should wear.

But 'twould take us too long, and we'd tedious become,
Were we to describe all that graces our room.
Look round for yourselves, when you've finish'd our verse,
And lighten our stores to make heavy our purse.

Perhaps we should mention the PRESS and the POST,
Which for our Bazaar in themselves are a host;
But at each of the two, "men of letters" attend,
Who can speak for themselves, and dispense with a friend.

Then only one word in your ear, ere we part:—
Should you need, while you stay, a nice patty or tart,
Or a jelly or sandwich, or coffee or tea,
Your palate we'll please for a moderate fee.

We knew when you came you would linger all day;
And to send our kind purchasers empty away,
Would thoughtless have been, and not handsome at all,
So for your refreshment we've furnish'd a stall.

Thus to please every taste we've industriously labour'd,
In the hope of approval from all to be favour'd,
And that all the gay things in this room you behold,
Ere we close our Bazaar may be changed into gold!

These lines were not altogether original: they were a "new edition, revised and enlarged," of a piece written for the Chester-le-Street National-School Bazaar.

Another paper consisted of verses by James Montgomery, the Sheffield poet, who had kindly sent copies of them in his own handwriting, for sale at the Bazaar:—

THE DYING GIRL'S REQUEST.

"MAMMA!" a little maiden said,
Almost with her expiring sigh:
"Put no sweet roses round my head,
"When in my coffin dress I lie."

"Why not, my dear?" the mother cried:
"What flower so well a corpse adorns?"
"Because," the innocent replied,
"They crown'd our Saviour's head with thorns?"

CLOSET PRAYER.

O! WHAT a privilege! to kneel,
Fall down, and worship at thy feet,
My God! my Father! and to feel,
With thee, communion high and sweet!

To pour my spirit out in prayer,
Or on the wings of praise ascend,
Like Moses, to the Mount: and thus
Converse with Thee, as friend with friend.

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS.

TRUE, though in chains, the mountains stand;
The vallevs' links run through the land;
In fellowship the forests thrive;
And streams from streams their strength derive.
All nature is society;
All nature's voices, harmony;
All colours, blended from pure light;
Why, then, should Christians not unite?

CHRISTIAN UNION.

THE grace of Jesus Christ our Lord—
The Father's love, with sweet accord—
The Holy Ghost's communion—be
Our bond of Peace and Charity!

MOTTO FOR THE BIBLE.

BEHOLD the Book, whose leaves display
Jesus, the Life, the Truth, the Way!
Read it with diligence—with prayer:
Search it, and you shall find Him there.

SPIRITUAL WORSHIP.

FROM young and old, with every breath,
Let prayer and praise arise:
Life be the "Daily Offering:" Death
The "Evening Sacrifice."

RELIANCE ON GOD.

HIM wilt Thou keep in perfect peace,
Whose mind is stay'd on Thee:
Me, Lord, from pining care release,
And vain perplexity.
Give me my heart's sore plague to feel,
And then the wounded spirit heal.

THE POWER OF FAITH.

"WITH men impossible!"
What hope remains for me?
A sinner, on the verge of Hell,
Oh! whither shall I flee?

"Flee from the wrath to come,"
I hear my Saviour say.
What can I do? Let doubt be dumb:
What can I, but——obey.

His sceptre or his rod,
Who shall control them? None!
All things are possible with God:
He speaks—and it is done.

'Tis but to know His will,
And in His power confide:
Then Faith may bid the sun stand still,
And walk upon the tide.

A third composition, by the author of the "PITMAN'S PAY," was highly popular with the visitors. It was as follows:—

THE GYETSIDE GRAND BAZAAR.

COME, BESSY! let 's buss, and be off te the toon,
Me i' maw best coat—thou i' thy new goon;
For fineish folks nobbut, aw hear, will be shown
This Gyetside grand Bazaar.

Digitized by Google

The quality all ha'e been stitchin' away,
As busy as Lunnen sark-mye'kers, they say,
Te furnish their stalls wiv a a rich display,
For the Gyetside grand Bazaar.

They 'll nut be sic stalls as where wives apples vend,
Nor where BALL-O'-WAX plies his awl and his end,
Nor the snug, cozy "stalls," which Prebends attend—
At the Gyetside grand Bazaar.

The stalls thou 'll see there are glittering and grand,
Wi' wares the myest temptin', and shown biv a hand
That 'll charm wi' the pow'r of a conjuror's wand,
The folks at the Gyetside Bazaar.

But wor mite we mun spend:—nay all we can spare;
For the money they tyek is te get the bairns lare;
But mind, o' thy pocket, maw hinny, tyek care,
When at the Gyetside Bazaar;

As the lady stallkeepers are set there te draw
The brass frae the pocket wi' wheedlin' jaw,
Se slee as te just wile the foot off a craw,
For the Gyetside grand Bazaar.

But, WILLY! aw 's flaider o' thou than mysel';
For sic witchin' women, wi' some coaxin tyel,
May penniless myek thou come back te the Fell,
Frae the Gyetside grand Bazaar.

For where is the man can refuse te comply,
When se sweetly press'd by the ladies te buy,
Or their luck at the last, in the lott'ry te try,
Te finish the Gyetside Bazaar.

A bit menseful cap aw mun bev if aw can,
A nice little Dolly for sweet little FAN,
And a pair o' warm slippers for canny goodman,
At the Gyetside grand Bazaar.

Then come away, WILLY! aw 's langin' te see
The rich and the poor se heartily agree
Te help on the bairns wi' their A, B, C,
At the Gyetside grand Bazaar.

The "HUSBAND'S COMPLAINT," and the "WIFE'S EXCULPATION," two amusing squibs on the "Berlin-wool" mania of the fair sex, were also printed at the BAZAAR PRESS, and found many purchasers.

The "POSTOFFICE" occupied the corresponding corner of the room—(the "*corresponding* corner" in more senses than one). It adjoined No. 5, and was a tolerable imitation of Her Majesty's *bona fide* establishments of the kind—somewhat handsomer, it is true, than the Gateshead postoffice—though not so fine a model of architecture, perhaps, as the parent-office in St. Martin's-le-Grand! There was a complete "staff" of officers—postmaster, clerks, and letter-carriers; and the various mails, overland and oversea, were duly announced as they arrived, but with less official gravity than characterizes the official intimations of the Postmaster-General and his Secretary. Curiously enough, there was a letter for every applicant; also for many a lady and gentleman who would fain have eluded the Argus eyes of the postmaster's scouts. The establishment would have been "just the thing" for Joe Miller's Irishman, who, when told there was no letter for him at the post, asked the postmaster if he could not sell him a few! At the Bazaar postoffice there were letters for all comers, and in any quantity; and (thanks to the pages of *Punch!*) the little fortress continued to fire upon the company a battery of puns and jokes, which reconciled them to the temporary repeal of Rowland Hill's penny postage, and the restoration of the ancient charges.

In connection with this department of the Bazaar, the Committee, we are bound (as impartial journalists) to say, acted with gross inconsistency; for while, at one end of the room, they had a box to receive contributions to the "Rowland Hill Testimonial," and thus made a profession of gratitude to the author of penny postage, they winked at the extortions of their postmaster (if they did not avowedly encourage him) in exacting sixpence from every luckless wight or hapless damsel who received his letters! The postoffice receipts, we believe, were upwards of £6—on which amount the Committee pocketed "doctors' profits"—or eleven-twelfths! How the Chancellor of the Exchequer will begrudge them their good-fortune, when he reads the *Gateshead Observer* on Monday morning, and sighs over the very different per centage which *he* realizes from his letter-carrying monopoly!

Our "P. D." (who is half jealous, we suspect, of the popularity of the postoffice, as a rival of his "Old Woman's Corner,") warns us that he has now only a few more inches of room to spare, and that we must hasten to a close. This peremptory intimation places us in an awkward predicament; for much remains to be told, and we hardly know what to omit.

From beginning to end, the Bazaar was well attended, and most successful. On Tuesday and on Wednesday, in the forenoons and the evenings, visitors were numerous—too numerous at times—for occasionally the throng was so great as to impede the progress of the sale. Ladies and gentlemen of all ranks and denominations were present; and on Wednesday the Countess of Strathmore was among the visitors, and made liberal purchases.

On Thursday, in the forenoon and the evening, the articles undisposed of were sold by auction by Mr. Blagburn, and realized tolerable prices. There was much merriment at the conclusion of the sale, when the remnants of the refreshments were sold "in lots to suit purchasers," the great part of them finding consumers into the bargain, so that the Bazaar may be said to have concluded with a supper! [We have heard a whisper that there is also to be a BAZAAR TEA.]

Two or three members of the committee addressed the company, expressing their gratitude for the support which they had received, so far surpassing the humble anticipations of the projectors of the Bazaar.

We have it not in our power to publish a full and exact statement of the financial results of the project. But the *net* receipts at the stalls—that is, the receipts, after deducting the expenses incurred by the ladies in providing articles for sale—were as follows:—

		£	s.	d.
1.	Mrs. W. H. Brockett	£36	2	9
2.	Mrs. T. Swinburne	38	11	11
3.	Mrs. H. C. Pattinson			
4.	Mrs. I'Anson and Mrs. Dickinson	29	16	6
5.	Mrs. James Clephan and Mrs. Joseph Clephan	20	5	3
6.	Mrs. Vickers and Mrs. Boyd	33	17	3
7.	Mrs. Robson	17	8	3
8.	Mrs. D. Haggie and Mrs. Fawcett	19	1	9
9.	Mrs. Coulthard	10	0	0
10.	Mrs. Brady	18	2	3
11.	Messrs. I'Anson & Finney	2	16	0

The postoffice yielded a net revenue of £5 14s. 7d. There was also a surplus of £2 4s. 3d. accruing from the admission tickets, several visitors having refrained from purchasing articles with their "paper-money." The auction on Thursday produced about £25. The total receipts at the Bazaar exceeded £340. The charges already defrayed reduce the amount to about £260, and there are still several outstanding claims.

And here we must conclude our narrative, congratulating the Bazaar Committee on the unqualified success of their enterprise.

THE GATESHEAD TOWN COUNCIL.

p WILLIAM KENNIR, Esq., Mayor.

ALDERMEN.	COUNCILLORS.		
p Barras, John	Bertram, C.	p Hymers, J.	Robson, D.
p Brockett, W. H.	Cummins, T.	p Kent, Samuel	p Robson, J.
p Pollock, James	Dunn, Charles	p Lister, J., sen.	p Smith, James
Sowerby, G.	p Edward, J.	p Lister, J., jun.	Sowerby, T.
Wilson, Thos.	p Garbutt, C.	p Potts, John	p Wilson, J. R.
p Davis, Robert		p Revely, T.	p Wylam, Ralph

[Those marked p were present.]

THE town-council met on Wednesday, the 6th of March, at noon.—On the subject of the railway-viaducts, the TOWN CLERK stated that an assurance had been received from the Brandling Junction Company, to the effect that the drippings would be prevented *over the footpaths*.—No resolution was passed by the Council; but it was understood that the indictment should be proceeded with, unless the nuisance were abated before the sessions, not only as to the footpaths, but also the *carriage-ways*. Much displeasure was expressed at the Company's systematic disregard of the rights of the people of Gateshead. One Councillor observed, that while the Bishop of Durham was humanely and generously offering to subscribe, from his own private purse, for an increase in the supply of water to the Gateshead poor, the Railway Company were filling up the public wells!

The Council now proceeded, in their character of Street Act Commissioners, to hear appeals against assessments; and afterwards adjourned to April 3.

GATESHEAD BRITISH SCHOOL BAZAAR.—The gentlemen connected with the management of this successful project, anxious that it should be "wound up" as pleasantly as it had proceeded from the beginning, invited their fair colleagues (not, of course, at the expense of the Bazaar-purse, but at their own charge,) to a cup of tea at Miss Murray's, the Half Moon

Digitized by Google

inn, on Wednesday, March 6. The evening-meal was provided with that comfort and liberality for which the Half Moon has long been famous, and the number that sat down to the tables exceeded 50. Two or three of the more active friends of the Bazaar, we regret to state, were detained at home by indisposition. After tea, Mr. Ald. Brockett, one of the Vice Presidents of the British Schools, was called upon to preside. The Report of the Secretaries was then read by Mr. Joseph Clephan. We give a brief abstract of the accounts:—

RECEIPTS.

Donations in money				£20	17	1
Gross receipts of Bazaar:—						
First day	£163	17	10			
Second day	150	3	5			
Total gross receipts	£314	1	3			
Deduct expenses incurred by the ladies furnishing stalls	76	11	6			
Net receipts				237	9	9
Gross proceeds of the auction	£25	0	8			
Deduct auctioneer's charges	2	5	0			
Net proceeds				22	15	8
				£281	2	6

DISBURSEMENTS.

Placards, handbills, and circulars, with posting and distribution thereof	£18	15	7			
Advertising in newspapers	7	4	0			
Stationery	1	12	9			
Stalls, decorations, &c.	17	5	6			
Postage, carriage, and sundries	3	2	10			
Total disbursements				48	0	8
Net profits of the Bazaar				£233	1	10

ATTENDANCE OF VISITORS.

First day (including 128 children under ten years of age)	764
Second day (including 99 children)	650
Total number of visitors	1,414

On the motion of Mr. Henry Brady, the Report was received, and a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the Trustees of the Wesleyan School Room, for their great kindness in placing it at the service of the Bazaar Committee, and their liberality in granting a supply of gas.—Thanks were also given, on the motion of Mr. F. Bennett, to Christian Allhusen, Esq., for his liberal donation of evergreens, and to Mr. Charles I'Anson, for superintending the decoration of the room.—Mr. I'Anson acknowledged the compliment.—A vote of thanks to the donors generally, was moved by Mr. Joseph Clephan, and seconded by Mr. W. W. Watson.—The Chairman, with many high encomiums, proposed a vote of thanks to the Honorary Secretaries; which was warmly seconded by Mr. Brady, and supported by Mr. R. H. Haggie.—Messrs. Joseph Clephan and John Fawcett responded to the honour conferred upon them; and the latter Secretary concluded with a motion for a vote of thanks to the Postmaster-General of the Bazaar, Mr. James Clephan.—Mr. David Haggie, sen., seconded the motion.—Mr. Clephan spoke in reply, and moved a vote of thanks to "The Ladies—through whose exertions, chiefly, the Bazaar had been so successful."—The motion was carried by acclamation, and was acknowledged, on behalf of the ladies, by Mr. Swinburne, jun.—Mr. Garlick briefly addressed the company.—Mr. D. Haggie moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Brady and the Bazaar Committee.—Mr. B. J. Proctor seconded the motion, and it was responded to by Mr. Brady.—On the motion of Mr. R. Pratt, thanks were given to Mr. Douglas, for the loan of a printing-press, and for other services to the Bazaar.—Thanks were then given to Mr. Parker, the Master of the British School, who had done good service during the progress of the Bazaar, and to Mrs. H. Brady, for her great exertions and admirable arrangements in connection with the refreshment stall.—Mr. R. H. Haggie appealed to the company in behalf of the Victoria Infant School, held under Bethesda chapel, Melbourne-street, (which is well worthy of public support). Thanks were then voted to the Chairman; and the very pleasant company (whose proceedings we regret that we cannot report at greater length) reluctantly separated.—[There was one feature of the Bazaar which we last week overlooked. We allude to a group of figures at Mrs. Swinburne's stall, consisting of six school-girls, neatly dressed, and soliciting subscriptions. An open Bible formed part of the well-executed model, with the words, "The poor ye have always with you." It excited much attention, and was purchased by Mr. R. H. Haggie, as a present to the British Schools.—We may also mention, here, that duplicates of two patent bonnets, made by Mrs. Lowes, of Stanmore, Middlesex, a liberal donor to the Bazaar, are now on show at Mrs. Sharp's, High-street, Gateshead, and will repay a peep—especially as the ladies will not need to "pay for peeping."]

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

THE Persons hereinafter named and described, were, on the first day of March instant, duly ELECTED ASSESSORS of the several Wards of the said Borough, hereinafter mentioned:—

EAST WARD.

ROBERT BLAGBURN, High-street, Innkeeper,
JONATHAN ROBSON, High-street, Tallow Chandler.

WEST WARD.

WILLIAM BLAGBURN, Windmill-hills, Butcher.
DAVID HAGGIE, Jun., Ellison-street, Rope Manufacturer.

SOUTH WARD.

ROBERT HETHERINGTON, Gateshead Low Fell, Innkeeper.
THOMAS LIDDELL, Gateshead Low Fell, Builder.

ASSESSORS TO REVISE THE BURGESS LISTS WITH THE MAYOR.

THOMAS SWINBURNE, of West-street, Solicitor, and WILLIAM LOCKEY HARLE, of West-street, Solicitor, were on the same day elected Assessors to Revise the Burgess Lists with the Mayor.

AUDITORS.

CHARLES FREDERICK SPRINGMANN, of Union-row, Schoolmaster, and BRYAN JOHN PROCTOR, of Union-row, Glue Manufacturer, were on the same day duly elected Auditors of the said Borough.

WILLIAM KELL, Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Gateshead, March 1, 1844.

STREET-ACT ASSESSMENT.

TO THE RATEPAYERS OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—You are aware that the Commissioners recently submitted a "Case" to M. T. Baines, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, and obtained his "Opinion" thereupon, for the assistance of the local authorities in the collection of the Street Act Assessment, and the satisfaction of the Ratepayers. You are aware, also, that a Meeting of the Commissioners was held on Wednesday last, to hear and determine Appeals against the Assessment It is in reference to Mr. Baines's "Opinion," and to the Meeting just held, that I would now briefly address you; and I will first extract, from the official advertisement of the Commissioners, inserted in the *Observer* of the 10th ult., the "Query" which they addressed to the Barrister, and his "Answer" thereto.

Query.—What is the proper mode of rating the houses or buildings which are let to or occupied by one or more tenants—the proper mode of collecting such rate—and the amount or proportion of such rate to which the landlords or owners of such property are liable?

Answer.—In the case of tenemented property, I think that each house should be rated separately; otherwise it would be difficult, if not impossible, for other persons rated to form a judgment as to the equality of the assessment; and they certainly ought to have the opportunity of doing this—(Rex *v.* Aire and Calder Navigation Company, 2 Barn. & Cresaw., 713: Rex *v.* Bromyard, 8 Barn. & Cresaw., 240).

The Commissioners have no right, in my opinion, to give up any *portion* of the rate payable by the landlords of tenemented premises, except in the case of inability to pay (under section 68); and if they do, I think it is a grievance upon the other ratepayers.

If the rate cannot be obtained from the occupiers in any particular tenemented house, who are primarily liable to pay, section 70 gives a remedy against the landlord. For example, if there is no "rent due and payable" at the time of the demand, the tenants cannot be compelled to pay the rate. If there is rent due, they may be compelled to pay to that amount; and the deficiency, whether partial or total, is to be made up by the landlord; from whom, by section 79, payment may *then* be enforced. The landlord is not liable to pay in the first instance. The rate, if recoverable from the tenants (which it will not be, if no rent is due from them), must be recovered from them in the way pointed out by that section; and if it cannot be so recovered, the landlord may then be called upon by a proper demand; and, after neglect or refusal for ten days, a Magistrate will have jurisdiction to proceed against him for the purpose of enforcing payment. M. T. Baines.

Temple, Jan. 24, 1844.

Now, Gentlemen, at the Meeting on Wednesday, two decisions were given—one of which, in my opinion, was superfluous, and the other erroneous.

Digitized by Google

First, it was decided by the Commissioners, that unoccupied tenements were exempt from the payment of rates. Why, Gentlemen, if a house be without a tenant, of course the Commissioners must go without the assessment; and to pass a resolution to that effect, was surely unnecessary.

Secondly, the Town Clerk inferred, from Mr. Baines's "OPINION," that the Commissioners, when compelled to have recourse to their "remedy against the landlord," were empowered to enforce from him the payment, not only of "the amount or proportion of rate to which the landlord or owner of the property is liable," but also of the proportion payable by the tenant.

This decision, with due deference to the learned adviser of the Commissioners, I hold to be utterly erroneous, and based upon a misconception of Mr. Baines's "OPINION."

Mr. Baines, it must be borne in mind, was applied to for the purpose of ascertaining, not the *tenants'* liability, but "the amount or proportion of rate to which the *landlords* are liable;" and his opinion is, that the tenant is liable for the landlord's proportion in the first instance; that "if there be rent due, the tenant may be compelled to pay to that amount;" and that "the deficiency, whether partial or total, is to be made up by the landlord."

The "deficiency, partial or total," has reference, evidently, to the *landlord's* proportion of the rate (the subject of the QUERY), and not to the tenant's porportion (the landlord's liability to *that* proportion forming no part of the inquiry submitted to Mr. Baines).

Requesting your attentive consideration to this address,

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Gateshead, March 8, 1844. JAMES HYMERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

SIR,—An insinuation in Dr. Murray's last letter renders it absolutely requisite for me to reply to him, and to show that my respected friend, Dr. Clanny, does not without reason charge Sir H. Davy with pirating two forms of his (Dr. Clanny's) original safety lamp. In a foot note to page 307 of Dr. Paris's life of Davy, we find the following:—After a description of the safety lamp of Dr. J. Murray, of Edinburgh, he proceeds—"One of the most active and intelligent members of the Society for Preventing Accidents in Coal Mines (Dr. Clanny) had for some time paid particular attention to the object in contemplation. He first suggested the idea of an insulated safety lamp, of which an account appeared in the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1815." In the same work, page 313, are descriptions of four lamps, in a letter from Sir H. Davy to Dr. Gray:—The Blowing Lamp, in which "the candle or lamp burns in a close lantern, having a tube below of small diameter for admitting air, which is thrown in by a small pair of bellows, and a cube above of the same diameter, furnished with a cup filled with oil." Now, Sir, I ask your impartial and candid readers to determine, whether this was not a slight modification of Dr. Clanny's first plan of insulation? In the next paragraph to that just quoted, we have another lamp, called the Piston Lamp, described; which, likewise, can only be regarded as a modification of Dr. Clanny's original lamp. But in both these cases the slight alterations are calculated to destroy the safety of the original lamp; and that this *was* safe, was proved by the heroic experiment of Dr. Clanny, and by the after use of the apparatus. The observation with regard to the only effect of Davy's slight alterations, will be found in the words of the editor of the *Annals of Philosophy* (1815), vol. vi., p. 454, where he renders an account of Sir H. Davy's paper on these lamps, read before the Royal Society, Nov. 9, 1815.

I only refer to the controversy with regard to another matter—viz., the discovery of the principle of safety in the use of wire-gauze, or capillary tubes—in order to assert, that every statement made in support of Dr. Clanny's merits as an inventor is capable of being supported by *documentary evidence*. If Dr. Murray can now produce and authenticate a copy of his work, containing an account of the safety lamp which he claims, before Dr. J. Murray gave his to the world, I, for one, whatever value may be set on the acknowledgment, shall publicly admit that I have been in error. It is false to say that I have made any insinuation—least of all, a "vile insinuation."

Newcastle, Feb. 26. R. M. GLOVER, M.D.

THE TRADE OF THE COUNTRY,

1842 AND 1843.*

OUR IMPORT TRADE.—Among other articles of import into this kingdom, in 1842 and 1843, were the following:—

IMPORTS.	Quantity Imported.		For Home Consumption.	
	1842.	1843.	1842.	1843.
Oxen and bulls ..*number*	3,156	1,114	3,165	1,114
Cows	1,038	367	1,046	367
Calves.....	70	40	76	40
Sheep	634	210	638	210
Lambs	10	7	10	7
Swine and hogs	410	359	415	359
Bacon .....*cwt.*	520	710	402	794
Barilla and alkali....*tons*	2,165	2,869	2,139	2,267
Bark for tanners' or dyers' use .....*cwt.*	645,747	838,887	640,413	838,088
Beef, salted, not corned:—				
Of British possessions...	6,219	15,509	1,649	2,255
Foreign	23,702	45,382	5,443	1,045
Beef, fresh, or slightly salted	102	60	96	35
Butter.....	175,197	152,250	180,480	148,288
Cheese	179,748	179,568	180,584	166,584
Coffee:—				
Of British possessions *lb.*	20,481,655	18,238,560	17,337,956	20,178,845
Foreign	20,962,759	20,666,886	11,229,201	9,852,761
Wheat .....*qrs.*	2,717,454	940,666	2,668,051	869,149
Barley.....	73,335	179,484	49,967	223,543
Oats	301,272	85,010	282,544	41,963
Rye	14,508	4,872	28,516	2,794
Peas	92,938	48,634	80,451	45,218
Beans	126,443	47,999	43,279	45,703
Maize, or Indian corn ..	35,806	518	19,617	10,225
Wheatmeal or flour ..*cwt.*	1,129,852	439,832	1,125,799	426,704
Oatmeal	19,069	5,811	20,262	5,534
Eggs .....*number*	89,548,747	70,448,250	89,557,501	70,448,250
Salmon .....*cwt.*	80	955	25	847
Turtle.....	157	327	158	327
Flax and tow, or codilla of hemp and flax	1,145,759	1,442,467	1,148,741	1,439,574
Hemp, undressed.....	585,905	732,077	614,074	698,472
Hides, untanned	610,428	587,130	535,202	537,467
Mahogany .....*tons*	16,938	20,407	16,775	24,943
Metals, viz.:—				
Iron, in bars, unwrought	18,701	12,809	14,746	12,083
Spelter	6,072	10,173	2,806	4,125
Tin, in blocks, ingots, bars, or slabs....*cwt.*	11,112	31,230	461	2,121
Train, blubber, and spermaceti oil .....*tuns*	17,473	23,859	16,673	23,424
Palm oil .....*cwt.*	424,242	420,377	356,222	383,025
Opium .....*lb.*	72,373	244,215	47,861	32,160
Pork, salted:—				
Of British possessions .....*cwt.*	15,242	11,663	7,821	4,178
Foreign	38,921	15,304	8,553	1,961
Pork, fresh	1½	..	1½	..
Rice	511,414	453,379	252,486	259,201
Saltpetre and cubic nitre..	417,722	624,006	346,125	385,675
Cloverseed.....	109,090	76,253	160,447	70,643
Flaxseed and linseed *qrs.*	367,700	469,642	357,953	468,159
Rapeseed	65,686	88,091	68,478	86,831
Raw silk .....*lb.*	3,951,773	3,464,873	3,936,714	3,549,467
Thrown silk of all sorts..	397,407	384,805	363,977	335,113
Goat-skins, undressed .....*number*	455,521	515,115	352,168	413,216
Kid, undressed.....	81,510	91,595	77,913	100,571
—— dressed	480,343	446,772	477,727	444,591
Lamb, undressed	822,042	1,292,310	854,899	1,346,127
——— tanned, tawed, or dressed	7,728	10,391	6,532	7,401
Rum...*gals.* (*incl. over pr.*)	4,619,804	3,729,673	2,098,289	2,103,989
Brandy	1,674,436	2,396,340	1,083,089	1,038,941
Geneva	323,744	360,290	14,589	13,899
Sugar, unrefined, viz.:—				
Of the British Possessions in America *cwt.*	2,508,910	2,503,577	2,239,687	2,533,110
Of Mauritius.....	689,335	477,124	700,445	456,512
East India of British Possessions	940,452	1,101,751	936,211	1,056,483
Foreign of all sorts	617,314	939,896	105	76
Tallow	1,011,370	1,169,864	1,034,460	1,175,545
Tar .....*lasts*	10,618	13,973	10,891	13,306
Tea .....*lb.*	40,742,128	45,344,449	37,389,576	40,302,981

CUSTOMS DUTIES.—The net receipts in the year 1842 were £22,465,839: in 1843, £22,574,103.

Digitized by Google

OUR FOREIGN TRADE.—The number of vessels that entered inwards, in the last two years, was as follows :—

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.	1842.		1843.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
Vessels of United Kingdom and its dependencies	13,823	2,680,838	13,964	2,919,528
Vessels of other countries	5,851	974,392	5,600	1,005,894
Total	19,674	3,655,230	19,564	3,925,422

Increase in British tonnage in 1843.... 269,192, or TEN per cent.
Increase in foreign tonnage in 1843.... 31,502, or THREE per cent.

OUR COASTING TRADE.—The number of vessels that entered inwards, in the last two years, was as follows :—

COASTERS.	1842.		1843.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
Employed between Great Britain and Ireland	9,060	1,148,907	10,104	1,255,901
Other coasting vessels.....	118,780	9,636,543	121,357	9,566,275
Total	127,840	10,785,450	131,461	10,822,176

* That is, the years ending Jan. 5, 1843 and 1844.

THE PROPOSED NEW TAX ON COALS.

AT a most numerous and respectable MEETING of the COAL-FACTORS, COAL-MERCHANTS, and others interested in the COAL TRADE of the PORT OF LONDON, held at the Coal Market, on the 28th day of February, 1844, for the purpose of petitioning Parliament against the proposed new Duty of Fivepence per Ton upon Coals imported into London, to defray the expense of the contemplated Thames Embankment, (Sir JAMES DUKE, M.P., in the chair,) the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to :—

It was moved by Mr. R. W. BARCHARD, and seconded by Mr. ROBERT CLARKE :—

Resolved,—That the proposed additional tax of fivepence per ton upon Coals imported into London would be most unfair and unjust towards all the Consumers of Coals in London and its environs, who, in consequence of the great distance that the Metropolis is situated from the Coal Districts, and the present Municipal Charge of one shilling and one penny per ton, already pay more for their fuel than in almost any other district of the United Kingdom.

Moved by Mr. P. DAVEY, and seconded by Mr. S. POCOCK :—

Resolved,—That the proposed new tax of fivepence per ton would be most unfair and unjust to the Coal Trade of London (in which a very large capital is embarked,) as, from reduced charges on many of the Canals and Railways, Coals are introduced from the inland districts and neighbouring outports (not taxed) into parts of the country formerly supplied from London, and there is great difficulty in at present competing with these rivals, to whom the proposed new impost would be a positive bounty of fivepence per ton, to the prejudice of the London Coal Merchant.

Moved by Mr. W. CORY, and seconded by Mr. W. HORNE :—

Resolved,—That the proposed new tax of fivepence per ton would be most unfair and unjust towards the Manufacturers of London, who, in consequence of the price of fuel, find great difficulty in competing with their rivals, not only in the country districts of England, but also in some of the continental towns, where coals are cheaper than in London.

Moved by Mr. W. MITCALFE, and seconded by Mr. A HARRIS :—

Resolved,—That the proposed new tax of fivepence per ton would be most unfair and unjust to the Owners of the Northern Collieries and Ships employed in the Coal Trade, in which an immense capital is embarked—a great portion of which does not at present afford a fair remunerative return.

Moved by Mr. GEORGE TAYLER, and seconded by Mr. GEORGE SMITH :—

Resolved,—That Petitions to the two Houses of Parliament, founded on the above Resolutions, be forthwith prepared; and that the Most Noble the Marquis of Londonderry be requested to present the Petition to the House of Lords, and that Sir James Duke be requested to present that to the House of Commons; and that the Members for the City of London, the Metropolitan Districts, and the adjacent Counties be requested to support the prayer thereof.

Moved by Mr. J. C. PRIOR, and seconded by Mr. J. HILL :—

Resolved,—That the Chairman be requested to send copies of the Resolutions to Sir Robert Peel, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the President of the Board of Trade; and that the following be the Petition to the two Houses of Parliament :—

The humble Petition of the Coal Factors, Coal Merchants, and others interested in the Coal Trade of the Port of London,

SHEWETH,—That your Petitioners have heard, with much concern, that it is intended to introduce into Parliament a Bill for levying an additional tax of fivepence per ton upon all Coals imported into London; and they beg humbly to represent to your Honourable House, that the said tax would be *most unfair* and unjust towards all Consumers of Coals in London and its environs, who, in consequence of the great distance that the Metropolis is situated from the Coal Districts, and the present municipal charge of one shilling and one penny per ton, already pay more for their fuel than in almost any other district of the United Kingdom; and also that it would be *most unfair* and unjust to the Coal Trade of the Port of London, in which a very large capital is embarked, as from reduced charges on many of the Canals and Railways, Coals are introduced from the inland districts and neighbouring out-ports (not taxed) into many parts of the country formerly supplied from London. Your Petitioners have now great difficulty in competing with these rivals, to whom the proposed new impost would be a positive bounty of fivepence per ton, to the prejudice of the London Coal Merchant. It would be also *most unfair* and unjust towards the Manufacturers of London, who (in consequence of the price of fuel) find great difficulty in competing with their rivals, not only in the country-districts of England, but also in some of the continental towns, where coals are cheaper than in London. It would also be *most unfair* and unjust to the Owners of the Northern Collieries and Ships employed in the Coal Trade (in which an immense capital is embarked)—a great portion of which, your petitioners believe, does not at present afford a fair remunerative return.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray, that no Bill may pass through Parliament for levying any additional duty upon Coals in the Port of London.

Moved by Mr. G. TAYLER, and seconded by Mr. J. C. PRIOR :—

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman, for his able and impartial conduct in the Chair.

OUR EXPORT TRADE WITH BRAZIL.

AN account of the declared value of British and Irish produce exported to Brazil during the last three years, has been presented to the House of Commons within these few days. The following extracts from the document may be interesting to our readers :—

Articles Exported.	1841.	1842.	1843.
Alkali (viz., soda and barilla).....	£1,344	£3,213	£2,103
Arms and ammunition	12,576	15,148	18,155
Beer and ale	12,381	16,804	20,541
Butter.....	66,144	63,166	64,294
Coals and cinders.....	6,134	17,522	9,396
Cordage	159	4,293	8,335
Earthenware.....	32,183	38,976	46,461
Glass	19,106	21,445	27,437
Iron and steel, wrought and unwrought	59,200	53,013	54,996
Lead	8,771	10,910	9,021
Leather, wrought and unwrought	12,044	15,028	23,309
Oil (linseed, hempseed, and rapeseed)..	3,563	4,922	6,006
Painters' colours	6,298	7,099	9,129
Soap and candles	51,016	45,384	57,812

The total declared value of the exports was £2,556,554 in 1841; £1,756,805 in 1842; and £2,140,127 in 1843.

We are sorry to perceive that the coal-exports have fallen off very much indeed during the last year. In earthenware, glass, cordage, colours, soap, and other of our local manufactures, however, there has been an increase. There has been an increase also, it appears, in the demand for beer and gunpowder—which will be anything but satisfactory to the friends of Peace and Teetotalism.

Digitized by Google

DRUNKENNESS AND MURDER.

A WOMAN SLAIN IN NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, BY HER HUSBAND.

On Thursday, March 14, a deed was done in Newcastle which has produced a painful excitement in the public mind. A poor woman, aged 52, was murdered by (it is supposed) her husband, Mark Sherwood, the occupier of two miserable underground rooms in Blandford-street. His pension as an old soldier, assisted by the fruits of industry, might have enabled him to keep himself and the deceased in comfort; but he was a drunkard, and their home was wretched. Even when sober, he had been heard to threaten her life; and when drunk, his conduct to her was cruel and brutal. On the receipt of his last quarter's pension, he commenced a new career of intoxication, and never visited his home—if home it should be called, until his money was all spent. He then (a few days ago) got 5s. from his wife Ann, realized at the pawn-shop; with which he renewed his drunkenness. On Wednesday morning he returned to his wife; and in the evening she told her niece, Ann Sutherland, o Oakwellgate, Gateshead, that he had again been threatening to do something; after which, he took up a Bible, and made her swear not to name to any one what he had said; "so," she added, weeping, "I cannot tell you." Sherwood was present during this interview, and fell upon his knees before his niece, saying God would bless her if she could make peace between them. The niece having left the house, the deceased (so far as is at present known) was seen no more alive. Sherwood himself was seen in the yard behind the house on Thursday morning, and seemed to be then quite sober. At 8½ o'clock, his niece was at the door, and was told by Sherwood, in answer to her knock, that the deceased had gone to a neighbour's, and taken the key with her. She then returned to Gateshead, but repeated her visit at 11 o'clock. The door was still locked. She therefore borrowed a key of John Ormston, a neighbour, with which she opened the door, and beheld an appalling sight. Deceased was lying on the floor, in her ordinary dress, and surrounded by a pool of blood. Within two yards lay Sherwood—his head bent down towards his breast—and life, to all appearance, gone. Shocked and terrified, she turned from the sickening sight, and alarmed the neighbourhood. The police were called in—and also two surgeons. Two deep gashes were found in the throat of the female—two dreadful wounds on the left jaw—and several cuts on her hands, indicating a fearful struggle with her murderer. The wall was bloodstained—and also some water which stood in a vessel on the table, the murderer having washed his hands when the deed was done. Two razor-blades were discovered in the fire. The key of the door was hanging on a nail. The surgeons were of opinion that the woman had been dead two hours, so that the murder had taken place near about the time of Ann Sutherland's first visit in the morning. No struggle, no cry, had been heard by the neighbours—the murderer had stifled every effort at alarm. Sherwood was found by the medical men to be in a state of drunken stupor, and well nigh dead. The stomach-pump drew off a large, an almost incredible quantity of whisky; and by the adoption of other means, he was at length restored to consciousness. [In reference to an error into which a contemporary has fallen, we have Dr. White's authority for stating that the whole merit of restoring the prisoner from the state of death to which he was all-but reduced, is due to Messrs. Carr and Taylor, the surgeons first called in, and who received no suggestions from Dr. W.] On opening his eyes, he addressed Inspector Little by name, and, looking towards the body of his wife, exclaimed, "There she is!" He shortly afterwards fell asleep, and slept several hours, but not soundly. Occasionally he awoke, and muttered curses and imprecations. He had been engaged, it appeared, in a fraudulent manufacture and traffic. An illicit still was discovered in the room adjoining that of the murder. About 30 gal lons of wash were in progress of fermentation, and a bottle containing whisky was found on his person. He and his wife had previously lived in Peel-street; but even then he occupied the rooms in Blandford-street—no doubt for smuggling purposes. The deceased was in the habit of selling fancy work-baskets, made of straw, and tastefully adorned with ribbon; and her niece describes her to have been sober and industrious, and the support of her husband when he was destitute of other means.

From the finding of a small funnel, marked with blood, and with which he is supposed to have obtained the whisky afterwards drawn from his stomach, it is conjectured that he was sober when he committed the murder, and made himself drunk when it was done.

An inquest was held in the afternoon, by William Stoker, Esq., when Ann Sutherland was examined. The inquiry was then adjourned to Monday, at three o'clock.

At night, Drs. White, Embleton, Charlton, and Nicholson, and Messrs. Carr, Dawson, Gibson, and Taylor, made a *post mortem* examination. The wind-pipe was found to be nearly cut in two, and the head almost severed from the body.

At 8 o'clock on Thursday night, Mr. Alderman Dunn, J.P., and Mr. Stephens, Superintendant of Police, accompanied by Mr. Davison, one of the Clerks to the Magistrates, proceeded to the house of the prisoner, to prepare for his removal to prison. He pleaded hard for permission to remain a few hours longer, before he was called upon to undergo the pain of being removed, in his then weak state of body; but it was thought essential, for the purposes of security, that he should not be allowed to pass the night out of prison; and a policeman having made oath (according to the forms of law) that he suspected Mark Sherwood to have murdered the deceased, Alderman Dunn signed a detainer to the Governor of the Gaol, authorizing his detention until the coroner had concluded his inquisition. The prisoner, when a policeman was helping him on with his stockings, remarked that they were the last pair he would ever need. He was placed in a coach amid the execrations of an assembled crowd, and conveyed to Newcastle gaol, (in which he was previously a prisoner for debt). He slept soundly during the night, and awoke yesterday morning calm and firm. Through the day he studiously avoided all allusion to the murder.

His coat and shirt are in the possession of the police. Both of them are marked with blood. The left wrist of the shirt, and also the shoulder, are stained as though the razor had been wiped upon it.

He and the deceased had been married about twelve years. Her maiden name is stated to have been Grant, and her native place Wooler.

The body of the deceased is to be buried this afternoon (Saturday), at 4 o'clock, in St. John's churchyard.

The charitable reader of this sad recital will hesitate in the formation of his judgment. If the prisoner be guilty, we seek not to palliate his crime; but, ignorant as we are of the domestic differences which led on to this fearful consummation, we should pause ere we too sweepingly apportion the responsibility that weighs upon the unhappy man.

The Murder in Newcastle. — The adjourned inquest on Monday, March 18, held by W. Stoker, Esq., at the police-office in the Manors, ended in a verdict of "wilful murder" against Mark Sherwood, the husband of the deceased, Ann Sherwood. Several witnesses were examined, viz., Ann, wife of George Sutherland, of Oakwellgate, Gateshead, and niece of the murdered woman; Agnes Little, of Blandford-court; John and Mary Ormston, of Westmorland-street; Sarah Richardson, of the Long-stairs, Castle-garth; Mr. Wm. Carr, surgeon; Policemen Jenkins, Latimer, and Mason; and Inspector Little. There was little in the evidence beyond what we last week published; and to report it would only be to load our columns, unprofitably, with a mass of offensive matter. The prisoner was present, and declined to make any statement. The unhappy man, a few days prior to the murder, was roaming about the country, reduced to a state of hunger by his improvidence. The deceased, it appears, lived long in Wooler as Ann (or Nanny) Humble, and was looked upon as an eccentric young woman. She was the daughter of George Humble, a noted thatcher, and led a gay and far from virtuous life; but in 1823, when she was about 30 years old, she married a man named King, at Duddingston, near Edinburgh. At Hereford, in 1832, being then a widow, she married the prisoner—a native of Patrington, in East York. He was then a military pensioner, living on fivepence a-day and his wits. During their residence in Newcastle, she was pretty extensively known as an itinerant vendor of fancy-baskets; under cover of which occupation, there is now reason to believe, she got rid of the whisky illicitly distilled in the Blandford-street cellar. She was a woman of sober habits, but he drank largely of the whisky he manufactured, and was also a frequenter of public houses. Their life, it is hardly necessary to remark, was one of constant

Digitized by Google

apprehension and unhappiness:—detection was dreaded from without, and there was nothing but strife and reproaches within.

THE NEWCASTLE TOWN-COUNCIL.

p Sir JOHN FIFE, Mayor.

ALDERMEN.	p Ingledew, H.	p Taylor, F.	*St. John.*
p Batson, T. R.	Straker, G.	p Rayne, C.	p Cookson, Wm.
p Bell, Thomas	p Harle, W. L.	*W. All Saints.*	Radford, J.
Bigge, C. J.	p Robinson, R.	p Ormston, J.	p Plues, Matthew
p Brandling, J	p Stokoe, S.	p Parker, A.	p Charnley, R
p Carr, John	*N. St. Andrew.*	p Silliok, J.	p Brown, William
p Donkin, A.	p Archbold, J.	p Carr, J. T.	p Burre'l, I.
p Dunn, G. T.	p Philipson, R. P.	p Proctor, W. B.	*Westgate.*
p Headlam, Dr.	p Keenlyside, T	p Hall, Edward	p Hawthorn, R.
p Hodgson, J.	p Dodds, Ralph	*E. All Saints.*	p Finlay, James
p Lamb, Joseph	p Blackwell, J.	p Ridley, John	p Bargate, George
p Losh, James	p Dunn, Thomas	p Hunter, John	*Jesmond.*
p Potter, A. L.	*S. St. Andrew.*	p Lowrey, S.	p Armstrong, W.
p Nichol, A.	p Weatherley, J. D	p Crawhall, J.	p Plummer, R.
COUNCILLORS.	p Gray, A. G.	p Shield, Henry	p Turner, Henry
St. Nicholas'.	p Sanderson, F.	p Turner, Wm.	——
p Nichol, John	p Jobling, M. L.	[Those marked p were present.]	

THE Council met on Wednesday, the 20th March.—Loans from Sir Thomas White's charity were voted to Charles Mordue and James King.—The Treasurer's quarterly accounts, amounting to £10,211 3s. 10d., were passed.—The Town Clerk's bill of expenses for the borough-registration was presented: total amount, £106 17s. 11d.

Ald. DUNN stated, on the subject of the Newcastle cattle-market, that the change of day at Morpeth had produced no injurious effect: the supply, indeed, on the last two market-days in Newcastle, had exhibited an increase. "An increase," said Ald. POTTER, "of 100 head of cattle on the previous day (Tuesday, March 19)."

Mr. ARMSTRONG moved the confirmation of the River Committee's Report on the petition of Mr. Barker for leave to erect a quay at South Shields.—Seconded by Mr. LOWREY.

Ald. DUNN had no objection to grant Mr. Barker leave to continue the new quay between his present property and Mr. Salmon's quay, but he was unwilling that he should be allowed to build it on a curved line, instead of a straight line, as originally sanctioned by the River Committee. He therefore moved that the quay be built on the line laid down in the license first granted.—Seconded by Mr. HUNTER.

The amendment was decisively negatived, and the original motion carried, on a show of hands.

The Report of the River Committee on the Bottle House Dock was confirmed—an amendment for its postponement, moved by Mr. CRAWHALL, being negatived.

The Council also confirmed a recommendation of the River Committee, that Mr. Robert Armstrong have leave to erect a slipway on the South Shore; and another, that Mr. Cunningham be allowed to use his floating-dock at St. Lawrence.

A Report of the Gaol Committee, brought forward by Mr. FINLAY, recommended the erection of about 50 additional cells, at a cost of £5,000—which could be paid off, principal and interest, in about 30 years, at an annual charge to the borough of £280.—The confirmation of the Report was seconded by Mr. ORMSTON.

Mr. JOHN NICHOL moved that the confirmation of the Report be deferred, until it was ascertained what the Government intended to do in reference to prison discipline.—Seconded by Mr. PLUES, and carried by a large majority.

On the motion of Mr. ARMSTRONG, the consideration of Messrs. Smith's quay was postponed. Mr. CRAWHALL gave notice, that he would move the adoption and fulfilment of Mr. Walker's Report at the next meeting.

The Report of the Gaol Committee, recommending that the surgeon's salary be increased to £130, was ordered to stand over. The immediate appointment of an additional taskmaster was determined upon.

Mr. PLUMMER presented a Report from the Committee on Trade, of which the following is a copy:—

We, the Committee on Trade and Commerce, have had under our consideration the increasing trade of the port, with reference more especially to the facilities which exist for accommodation and dispatch; bearing in mind, at the same time, that from various causes now in (or about to be brought into) operation, it must still continue to increase.

A complaint is made that much detention takes place in the shipping, and more in the landing of cargoes of goods at this port; and the complaint is not without foundation.

Your Committee are of opinion that much may be done towards removing the evil.

As a first step to the attainment of this object, we recommend that an application be made to the Lords of the Treasury to have this port ranked in the Queen's books as a first-class port instead of a second class port (which it now is); and that a memorial be prepared, and placed in the hands of the Members for the town to present to the Lords of the Treasury, praying that it may be raised to the first-class; and that they be requested to urge the prayer of that memorial upon the favourable consideration of their lordships, by every means in their power.

The amount of customs revenue now derived from the trade of this port is such, and it possesses other claims of so much consideration, as fully to justify the application; and if a comparison of the revenue, number of cargoes inwards and outwards, extent of foreign and coasting trade, amount of registered shipping, and the goods imported under bond, be made with the like elements in some of the first-class ports, the Committee believe it will be found that this port has the advantage in most of these particulars.

By the following table it will be seen that the customs revenue of this port has, notwithstanding the reductions which have been made in the import duties, increased since 1835 from £289,151 to £494,060, producing in the year 1843 nearly half-a-million of money, (which amount there is no doubt it will exceed in the present year, as there is reason to believe the duties received since the beginning of 1844 have been on the increase); that the number of cargoes from foreign inwards has increased from 373 in 1835, to 708 in 1843; that the number of cargoes foreign outwards has increased from 1,913 in 1835, to 4,088 in 1843; and that the number and tonnage of the registered shipping of the port has increased from 1,076 vessels of 211,173 tons burthen in 1835, to 1,379 vessels of 277,771 tons burthen in 1843. To the 708 vessels inward from foreign, must be added (in order to form a just estimate of the foreign trade of the port) an item which does not appear in the shape of vessels in the table, viz., the foreign goods under bond removed from other ports. It would appear that about 300 vessels have brought cargoes in this way, making the total number of vessels with cargoes inwards 1,000.

DUTIES OF THE LAST NINE YEARS.

Year.	Import Duties.	Warehouse Goods.	Export Duties.	Total.
1835	£41,518	£242,462	£5,171	£289,151
1836	52,158	247,133	6,793	306,084
1837	85,364	320,401	7,873	413,638
1838	87,317	284,446	7,480	379,243
1839	118,063	338,790	7,156	464,009
1840	101,098	335,779	6,075	442,952
1841	64,482	334,930	10,403	409,815
1842	56,185	345,292	31,305	432,782
1843	37,969	390,399	65,692	494,060

FOREIGN AND COASTING TRADE.

Year.	*Foreign Trade.* Cargoes Inwards.	*Foreign Trade.* Cargoes Outwards.	*Coasting Trade.* Cargoes Inwards.	*Coasting Trade.* Cargoes Outwards.
1835	373	1,913	2,725	13,061
1836	430	2,381	2,703	13,465
1837	618	2,725	2,953	15,301
1838	601	2,822	3,195	13,990
1839	839	3,160	3,129	13,787
1840	789	3,394	3,037	13,755
1841	688	3,975	3,033	14,120
1842	612	4,230	2,704	13,934
1843	708	4,088	2,513	13,633

REGISTERED SHIPS AND TONNAGE.

Year.	Ships.	Tons.	Year.	Ships.	Tons
1835	1,076	211,173	1840	1,327	261,164
1836	1,080	213,907	1841	1,340	267,254
1837	1,119	219,543	1842	1,350	270,796
1838	1,186	229,425	1843	1,379	277,771
1839	1,248	247,700			

It is believed there is no second-class port which, in the item of revenue, approaches Newcastle by £150,000; whilst Newcastle is nearly equal to Glasgow, a first-class port, whose revenue in 1843 was £497,728, being only £3,668 more than that of this port; but in the number of cargoes inwards and outwards foreign, and in the number of entries, there is no doubt that Newcastle very far exceeds Glasgow, Leith, and some other first-class ports. In the extent of its coasting trade and of its shipping, it is second only to London.

The advantages to be derived from the port being ranked as a first-class port would be numerous, from the facilities that would be afforded to trade from the custom-house department, from being included in all public returns ordered by parliament, and from the standing it would then hold, not only in this country, but abroad.

ROBERT PLUMMER.
T. R. BATSON.
MATTHEW PLUES.
ALEXANDER GEORGE GRAY.
HENRY SHIELD.
THOMAS BELL.
T. W. KEENLYSIDE.
JOHN THOMAS CARR.

March 20th, 1844.

On the motion of Mr. PLUMMER, seconded by Mr. R. ROBINSON, the Report was adopted, and a memorial ordered to be sent to the Borough Members, for presentation to the Treasury.

Mr. A. G. GRAY, in urging the importance of having Newcastle ranked as a first-class port, cast discredit on the Chamber

Digitized by Google

of Commerce (very justly), for its neglect to take the initiative on the subject.—[We are glad to find that the Council are about to repair the neglect of the Chamber. We blamed the Chamber ourselves, on the 20th of January last, for its omission to take up this subject, and showed, under the head of "JUSTICE TO NEWCASTLE," the validity of its title to be constituted a first-class port. We cannot, therefore, be otherwise than much gratified that the Town Council, as we then recommended, are about to "enlist the Newcastle Members" in "the righteous cause of 'Justice to Newcastle.'"—ED. G.O.]

Mr. PLUMMER presented a further Report from the Committee, that suitable sheds be erected on the Quay, for the reception of dry goods; and also that a rail or tram way be constructed for the transport of goods from one berth to another, and to communicate with the railways formed, or hereafter to be formed, in the neighbourhood.

Mr. T. DUNN moved that the Town Improvement Committee be empowered to form a new street between Thornton-street and Marlborough-street.

Mr. ROBINSON seconded the motion, and it was carried.

Mr. H. TURNER moved the establishment of a fair for the sale of lean cattle, to be held annually on the Friday nearest the 29th of May. The motion was adopted, with a modification that the fair be fixed for the last Tuesday in May.

Mr. TURNER moved, "That a market for the same description of stock be appointed to be held on the first Tuesday in every month throughout the year." The motion was declared to be carried.

Miscellaneous business was transacted, and the meeting adjourned.

THE GATESHEAD UNION.—We give a table showing the number of fortnightly *board* meetings attended by the Guardians of the whole Union, since their election in March, 1843; and also the number of weekly *committee* meetings attended by the Guardians of Gateshead parish:—

	Com.	Board.		Board.
Joseph Robson	34	24	Edward Edwards	3
David Haggie	42	22	John Slater	6
C. J. Pearson	42	13	William Mawer	13
William Joyce	18	3	Thomas Burnip	10
John Lister, jun.	8	2	Robert Laws	4
P. J. Main	30	5	Henry Sanderson	16
B. J. Prockter	32	20	Matthew Handcock	7
George Watson	42	19	John Nicholson	5
Forster Walker	2	0	Cuthbert Thompson	14
Thomas Tucker	31	6	Joseph Cowen	17
George Murray		5	Joseph Laycock	7
William Laws		7	William Todd	11
James Tone		5	Thomas Embleton	0
George Armstrong		3	William Wetherby	7
Thomas Gallon		1		

The first ten on the list are the Gateshead Guardians—all of whom (Messrs. Lister and Walker excepted) are nominated for reëlection. The following also are nominated:—Messrs. R. Garlick, John and William Angus, W. H. Brockett, William Brown, James Hymers, A. R. Bowes, Charles l'Anson, John Potts, George Mather, Archibald Singers, Thomas Nealson, Henry Harrison, Thomas Morland, J. F. Brett, Thomas Glaholm, William Hedley, Henry Brady, Joshua Watson, and Robert Pratt.

CIRCULATION OF NORTHERN NEWSPAPERS.—At the request of a correspondent, we have prepared a table showing the yearly supply of stamps to all the newspapers published in Newcastle, Gateshead, Sunderland, and Durham—as follows:—

	1841.	1842.	1843.
Newcastle Courant	222,500	204,000	214,000
Newcastle Chronicle	154,000	150,000	132,000
Newcastle Journal	152,500	124,500	121,500
Gateshead Observer	108,000	101,000	110,000
Newcastle Advertiser	233,000	99,175	64,200
Sunderland Herald	54,000	50,000	59,000
Durham Chronicle	66,737	59,175	58,475
Durham Advertiser	40,000	40,000	40,000
Tyne Mercury	24,000	21,000	29,000
Sunderland Times	40,675	42,527	27,000

NEWSPAPER STAMPS.—The Return of Stamps for the last two quarters of 1843 having been published, we are enabled to bring down the yearly and weekly average of the circulation of the county-of-Durham newspapers for the three years ending December 31, 1843. We refer to this gratifying evidence of the increasing circulation of the *Observer* with pleasure, as showing the total absence of that reaction in public opinion to which Tory newspapers are constantly alluding, and endeavouring to prove in every way—except by the Stamp Returns. The average weekly circulation of the *Observer*, during the last three years, it will be seen, is nearly double that of any other newspaper published in the county.

QUARTERS.	Gateshead Observer.	Durham Chronicle.	Sunderland Herald.	Durham Advertiser.	Sunderland Times.
1841.—First Quarter	27,000	17,737	10,500	10,000	15,000
Second	27,000	18,000	17,000	10,000	10,000
Third	27,000	18,000	11,500	10,000	7,175
Fourth	27,000	15,000	15,000	10,000	8,500
1842.—First Quarter	20,000	15,675	15,000	10,000	10,527
Second	29,000	15,000	10,000	10,000	7,000
Third	27,000	15,000	13,000	10,000	11,000
Fourth	25,000	13,500	12,000	10,000	14,000
1843.—First Quarter	18,000	13,000	11,000	10,000	3,000
Second	28,000	17,975	20,000	10,000	12,000
Third	30,000	15,500	15,000	10,000	6,000
Fourth	34,000	12,000	13,000	10,000	6,000
Three years	319,000	186,387	163,000	120,000	110,202
Yearly average	106,333	62,129	54,333	40,000	36,734
Weekly average	2,044	1,194	1,044	769	706

The amount of duty upon advertisements, paid by each newspaper in the county during the year 1843, was as follows:—

Gateshead Observer	£272	14	0
Sunderland Herald	225	10	6
Sunderland Times	168	0	0
Durham Chronicle	139	1	0
Durham Advertiser	133	17	6

So that, whether we look at the number of advertisements inserted in the Liberal and Tory papers respectively, or the extent of their circulation, we find Toryism in the *descendant*; and our political opponents, ever fond of magnifying the wealth and "respectability" of their party, must look elsewhere than in the Stamp Returns for evidence to bolster-up their assumptions.

GATESHEAD SOUP KITCHEN.—This charity closed its operations on the 23d March. The sum subscribed during the winter was £85 14s., and 21,616 quarts of soup were distributed, at a sacrifice of £78 7s. 2d.; in addition to a bushel of peas, given by Mr. T. Glaholm; twelve fothers of coal, given by the owners of Friars-Goose colliery; six ditto, by the owners of Oakwellgate colliery; and five fothers of coke, by the Union Gas Company.

THE COAL TRADE.

THE "binding," under ordinary circumstances, would have taken place on March 23rd; but, in the present year, both the coalowners and the pitmen, we understand, had decided not to enter upon the usual engagements on that day. The men preferred to wait the issue of the Glasgow Conference, appointed to commence on Monday, March 25th; while the coalowners had resolved to substitute, in the place of the annual bond, a monthly agreement in the following words:—

Terms and Conditions agreed upon between the Owners of Colliery and their Workmen.

1. The term of hiring to be for one calendar month certain, from the 5th of April, 1844, and so on from month to month, and not to be determined until the expiration of one calendar month's previous notice, to be given by either party.

2. The wages to be paid once a fortnight upon the usual and accustomed day, and up to the preceding Saturday, and to be at the following rates, (that is to say) to each hewer for every score of coals wrought out of the whole mine, a score consisting of corves or tubs, and a corf or tub of .

3. The owners to provide and keep at each pit, a measure tub, or weighing machine; and whenever any corves or tubs shall be sent to bank suspected to be deficient in measure or weight, the coals therein shall be measured or weighed by the heap-keeper, or other person or persons appointed for that purpose by the owners; and if found deficient to the extent of , no payment shall be made for hewing and filling the same, but the hewer thereof shall not be subject to any other forfeiture or penalty on that account. A person appointed by the workmen may attend the weighing or measuring of the corves or tubs, and keep an account thereof. The standard measure tub to contain , and the standard weight to be .

4. The hewers in the colliery to use their utmost endeavours, in working the coal, to produce as much round, merchantable coal as the nature of the mine will admit, and keep the same free from stone, band, slate, or foul coal; and if any corf or tub be sent to bank containing pounds of

Digitized by Google

stone, band, slate, or foul coal, the hewer shall forfeit the sum of , and the same penalty for every additional pounds. The hewers to do and perform when required, except when prevented by sickness or other sufficient unavoidable cause, a full day's work on each and every working day, or such quantity of work as shall be fairly deemed equal to a day's work not exceeding eight hours, and not to leave their work until such day's work or quantity of work is fully performed or finished to the extent of each man's ability; and in default thereof, each of the hewers so making default shall, for every such default, forfeit and pay to the owners the sum of 2s. 6d.

5. The headways shall be driven not exceeding wide, and the boards shall be turned not exceeding wide; and the hewers shall stow away, or cast aside, such quantities of small or refuse coals as the owners or their agents shall require; and the hewers shall do the business of the drivers, and shall set on corves, and shall do shift work when it shall be requisite; and the putters shall put away, and the drivers shall duly drive and lead away, such a number of corves of coals as shall be a reasonable and fair day's work; such day's work to consist of not less than twelve hours, and to commence from the drawing of the first coals; and each hewer shall be provided with a rake, shovel, maul, and wedges, by the said owners, for which he shall be accountable, and shall provide himself at his own charge with picks, . And the hewers and drivers shall, when required by the said owners or agents, put with trams, or act as barrowmen, at such rates and prices as are hereinbefore mentioned; the said owners paying the hewers fourpence per score as furtherance; and all the parties hired shall and will, in performing their respective duties, obey, abide by, and fulfil all the lawful directions and orders of them the said owners, or their agent or agents, at the said colliery.

6. If the owners, or the parties hired, be desirous of adjusting the measure tub or weighing machine used in the said colliery, and of such their desire shall give to the other party a reasonable notice, an adjustment thereof shall take place in the presence of any two of the parties hired, who shall be nominated by the rest for that purpose; and whenever such tub or machine shall be found to be incorrect, it shall with all convenient speed be rectified, but not so as to interrupt or to stop the working of the said colliery. The corves or tubs used at the said colliery to be of a competent size to bring the proper measure or weight to bank.

7. It shall be competent for the viewer of the said colliery to prevent the use of gunpowder, either wholly or in part, at his discretion.

8. Each workman for whom a dwelling-house or room shall be provided by the owners, shall keep in good repair the glass in the windows thereof, or pay the owners for the repair of the same; but such dwelling-house or room shall be occupied as and for part of the wages of the occupier, who shall not be deemed the tenant thereof, and who shall forthwith quit the same on his ceasing to be the servant of the owners; and in case he or his family, or any other person who shall be in possession thereof, with his consent, shall refuse so to do, it shall be lawful for the owners, or their agents and servants, or any of them, to enter into and upon such dwelling-house or room, and to remove and turn out of possession every person occupying the same, and all furniture and effects therein, without having recourse to any legal proceeding.

9. Every workman who shall negligently or wilfully disobey the orders of the owners or their agents, or shall commit a breach of any of these terms and conditions, shall forfeit and pay, at the discretion of the owners, a sum not exceeding 2s. 6d. for every such offence; and it shall be lawful for the owners to retain the same out of any wages then due, or to become due to the offender, or otherwise it shall be lawful for the owners to proceed against every workman so offending, according to due course of law.

10. All penalties and forfeitures, to be paid pursuant to these terms, shall be demandable and paid on the first pay day after they shall have been respectively incurred, and shall be thereupon deducted from the first or next following earnings or wages of the person incurring the same, until fully paid; and if they shall not be demanded on such first pay day and deducted as aforesaid, or if they shall be abandoned or remitted by the said owners or their principal agent, they shall not afterwards be revived, or enforced, or required to be paid.

Provided always, that as to such of the workmen in the said colliery as are under the age of 21 years respectively, these terms and conditions shall only operate as a simple contract of hiring and service; and especially that such parties shall not be subject to any of the penalties or forfeitures hereby imposed. But it is understood and agreed that nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to alter, prejudice, lessen, or otherwise affect the legal remedies and powers which by law belong to masters and servants in their respective relations to each other, or to magistrates having jurisdiction in case of dispute or difference between them.

MARCH 26.—The GLASGOW CONFERENCE (Mr. HENRY BIRRELL, Newcastle, in the chair,) discussed the question of a GENERAL STRIKE. Mr. CHRISTOPHER HALWELL moved that the colliers of the whole kingdom should strike, and was warmly seconded by one of the Northumberland and Durham delegates. Mr. WILLIAM CLOUGHAN, of Holytown, met the motion by a direct negative—which was seconded by a South Staffordshire delegate. Mr. SCOTT, Fifeshire, and Mr. HUNTER, Cumberland, supported the amendment. The original motion was supported by Mr. SWALLOW, Mr. MYCROFT, Mr. BENJAMIN EMBLETON, and others.

A committee, appointed by the conference, made a report, showing the numbers in each district for and against a strike. The result was:—

For a general strike	23,357
Against it	26,042
For a partial strike	1,528

Thus, there was a clear majority of 3,157 against *any* strike whatever. But on Wednesday, the conference agreed that the Northumberland and Durham miners should be allowed to drop work on the 5th of April, when their bonds expire.

Mr. ROBERTS, the "Pitmen's Attorney-General," was present, to take part in the proceedings. The conference, at his suggestion, adopted a petition against the Masters and Servants Bill, now before the House of Commons.

Nearly 100 delegates attended the conference.

THE GLASGOW CONFERENCE.—In addition to our last week's notice of the proceedings, we now give a few details, gleaned from the *Miners' Advocate* of Saturday last.——Delegates were present from the following collieries in Northumberland and Durham, viz.:—

	Men.		Men.
Shincliffe, representing	1,440	North Elswick	810
Sacristan	591	Annfield Plane	617
Seaton Delaval	250	Wingate	456
Hartley and Whitley	188	South Hetton	533
Castle Eden	300	Bedlington	1,367
Shotton	300	Unthank	393
Thornley	600	Haswell	411
West Moor	287	North Hetton	176
Rainton	273	Trimdon	300
Kenton	220	Earsdon	300
Monkwearmouth	180	Cramlington	1,150
Jarrow	432	West Cramlington	302
Pemberton	350	Wallsend	680
Lumley and Lambton	312	Wrekenton	1,117
St. Helen's Auckland	351	Cassop	500

The ranks of the Miners' Association, it was stated, had been swelled by an addition of 30,000 members, since the Manchester Conference.——A Leicestershire delegate, we find by the report of the *Advocate*, was sorely out of his geographical reckoning, when transported from the banks of the Soar to the banks of the Clyde. He said, in deprecation of a strike in the North of England:—

He had been lately lecturing in the county of Fife, and he begged the men of Northumberland to pay strict attention to what he was about to state. He could assure them that there were many thousand tons of coal lying on the coast of Fife ready to be shipped to their counties! *and they must never forget that* THE COAST OF FIFE WAS OPPOSITE TO THE NORTHERN COAST OF ENGLAND! and that ships could run over in a few hours!

Our "canny" Tyneside colliers would stare with astonishment at the learned Leicester lecturer, when he told them they were next-door neighbours to the folks of Fife!——The Conference, after a general strike had been negatived, resolved as follows:—

1. That the men of Northumberland and Durham ought, after using every other lawful means, and not yet gaining their end, to be allowed to refuse to work under the masters' agreement, which is to take place on the 6th day of April next; and we, the delegates from the different parts of the kingdom, do hereby pledge ourselves to do all in our power to assist them in their struggle, and also to prevent men from coming in amongst them, and (if possible) still further to restrict our labour.

2. That we recommend Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire to take in their proposed conditions to their several employers on the 8th day of April, and that one week be given to their employers to consider the same; and in case of their non-compliance to the wishes of the men, proper notice be given them that the men will cease work until they have complied; on condition that they be properly organized, and the men of Northumberland and Durham have got their grievances redressed.

There was a warm debate on the subject of the lecturers' wages, and a resolution was passed that no lecturers be engaged in the Northumberland and Durham district. The resignation of William Thomason was accepted.——The conversion of the *Miners' Advocate* into a stamped paper was resolved upon by a large majority.——The next Conference is to be held on the 23d of September, in North Staffordshire.——[A correspondent of the *Durham Chronicle* observes, that on reading the *Northern Star* of the 23d ult. he was led to expect a full account of the Conference on the 30th; but, on that day, the *Star* stated, that although a report of Wednesday's proceedings had been received, it must be withheld, for want of room. He was curious to learn the *true* motive for the suppression of the report, and saw it at once when he got hold of the *Gateshead Observer*; for there he found the Wednesday's division on the "strike" question, and

Digitized by Google

the majority against the proposed measure—for which the *Star* had not a line to spare!]

THE DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND COLLIERIES.

PROPOSED PITMEN'S BOND.

Mr. W. P. Roberts, the legal adviser of the pitmen in this district, has prepared a "new bond," for the consideration of the colliers and coalowners. He proposes (among other things)—

That the present hiring be to the 5th of October next, or one half-year.

No hewer to be required to put or drive, except the number of putters in the colliery be insufficient; and in no case shall they be called upon to do the work of putters or drivers who are on strike.

Wages to be paid weekly, viz., on Friday. The rates to be settled by each colliery for itself, and to be calculated, not by measure, but by weight.

The owners to pay a reasonable compensation for small or refuse coal thrown aside.

Hewers, when called upon to do the work of the drivers, trappers, &c., to receive 3s. 6d. per day in the pit, and 3s. out of it.

Putters, in like circumstances, to receive 3s. and 2s. 6d.; if no work be provided for them, 2s.; if work at half-trams, 1s. 6d., and 1s. if not working.

Hewers, if required to put, or act as barrowmen, to receive 1s. per score as furtherance.

For putting a score of tubs, containing 6 cwt., the first 60 yards, 1s. 4d.; when 61 yards is turned, 1s. 5d.; and so on 1d. in advance for every 20 yards.

Trappers to have 1s. per day when at work, and 9d. when not. Drivers, 1s. 4d. when at work, and 1s. when not.

The day's work of putters, drivers, and trappers, not to exceed ten hours.

Each hewer, save in case of accident or unsafety, to have not less work than will yield him 15s. per week, earning 3s. per day for five days. If less work be found him, pay for the remainder to be recoverable as wages.

At the time of payment, the hewer to receive a "pay bill," stating the amount of money earned, the amount deducted, and the cause of deduction.

The tubs to contain not more than 6 cwt. each, and to be weighed by a beam and scales—which shall be adjusted by the Inspector of Weights and Measures quarterly, or oftener, if desired by either party. The weighing to take place in the presence of two persons—one appointed and paid on each side; and each tub to be weighed, unless the parties otherwise arrange.

Penalties and forfeitures to be deducted on the first pay-day after they are incurred, or not at all.

Whenever the pit is laid off, the parties hired shall do such work as the owners may direct; but not elsewhere than on the colliery, unless the hewers are willing.

The hewers to do a full day's work (if not prevented by sickness or other sufficient cause), or to pay a fine of 2s. 6d.; but no hewer to be required to earn more than 3s. a day, nor to be fined for attending a delegate or public meeting, or meeting of magistrates concerning the hewers of the colliery. The owners, however, to receive proper notice of absence, and to be free from liability to pay wages.

If the mine be laid off by accident or unsafety, the hewers to receive 2s. 6d. per day, the putters 1s. 6d., and the drivers 6d.; but they must work on the colliery in such manner as their employers direct. If not employed, 1s. 6d., 9d., and 4d. Should any of them, with the permission of the owners, obtain full employment in some other colliery, the obligations of the bond to cease for the time being.

No "fly-doors" to be used, but trappers to be stationed at the doors.

In case of injury occurring at a colliery, and disabling the party injured from working, the employer to pay him 10s. per week, and find medical and surgical attendance. If death ensue, and a widow be left, 5s. per week, with house and coal to be allowed her for one year, unless she marry again before twelve months expire. If there be children, and no widow, 5s. per week to be allowed for one year for their support. £5 also to be allowed for the funeral of a workman dying from a colliery-accident.

Viewers to have power to prevent, in whole or part, the use of gunpowder; in which case, the workman to be remunerated for his additional labour, at the discretion of a magistrate.

The occupier of a dwelling-house, provided by his employers, shall keep the windows in good repair. The house to form no part of the workman's wages. At the expiration of the hiring, or in case a workman shall quit or be legally discharged, he must leave the house at the end of 60 days thereafter, or pay the owner a monthly rent at the rate of £4 per year. £4 per year to be allowed to a hewer for whom a house is not provided.

Stone or splint not to involve the forfeiture of a tub, unless it weigh ; and no other penalty than forfeiture to be imposed.

Disputes on points not settled by the bond to be referred to arbitrators. If not decided by the arbitrators, to be left to a magistrate—proper notice being given on both sides, in case of a trial, with a list of witnesses.

In the case of persons under 21 years of age, the bond to operate only as a simple contract of hiring and service, and especially that such parties shall not be subject to penalties or forfeitures.

[A coalowning correspondent observes:—"The terms of Mr. Roberts's bond are most unreasonable, and such as no colliery can comply with. There is a certainty of a strike. How long it may last, it is hard to say."—We hardly expect that it can last long. Housekeepers and manufacturers have been preparing for it this week by laying-in supplies of coal.—Ed. G.O.]

Colliers' Strike.—The colliers of Leicestershire, with the exception of those employed at Bagworth and Moira' were stated by the *Mercury* of March 30 to be then almost "on strike," and threatening to be quite so, if the coalowners refused their demands, viz., 4s. per day of eight hours, with other concessions. At the beginning of March, the men reduced the quantity wrought per day from ten to four corves; next, to two corves; and on Thursday, the 27th ult., each collier was limited to a single corf, the coalowners having previously received a month's notice of their intention to cease work altogether; which measure was met by the masters with a similar notice. ——A midland-counties correspondent, in a letter of the present week, writes us as follows:—

The Miners' Union is indeed a formidable combination. Nearly the whole of the men in the counties of Derby, Nottingham, and Leicester, are members; and almost all are now on strike. Coals to-day in Leicester are selling for 20s. per ton, which a week ago were at 8s. 6d. There is an absolute scarcity. What the public will do for them I know not, but it is quite impossible for the masters to comply with the terms the men are asking. They require men to be put on to work at their bidding, &c., besides an advance in wages of full 50 per cent.

Safety Lamp.—Mr. H. W. Smith, of Seaham Harbour, chemist, has sent us a copy of a letter which he addressed to the late Mr. Buddle, in May last, describing a new safety lamp for miners. We give his description:—

I would make a round copper vessel, very strong, to contain condensed oxygen gas. This to be screwed into the bottom of the lamp, and to be provided with a stopcock, to allow the supply of oxygen to be just sufficient to support combustion. The body of the lamp to be made of strong copper; to be seven inches high and three inches in diameter; the glass in front to be very thick. The oil cistern to be placed at the back of the lamp. This would give a more steady supply of oil to the wick, and would do away with the necessity of pushing up the cotton; and, if pure oil were used, need no snuffing. The front of the cistern to act as a reflector, to be made with a polished surface. The product of combustion to be allowed to escape at the top through a chimney half an inch in diameter. That no inflammable gas or atmospheric air can enter the half-inch opening at the top, suppose the lamp burning, can be proved by the following experiment:—Take a glass cylinder seven inches high and two in diameter. Introduce a small piece of candle, burning, (say an inch or half an inch in length,) to the bottom; the bottom to be perfectly air tight. Allow the top to remain open. It will be found that the light can obtain sufficient oxygen from the top to support combustion. But contract the top to about half an inch, and the candle will be immediately extinguished, the hole being too small to support combustion, and to allow the escape of its own product, at one and the same time; the rarefied product claiming the ascendancy, and would rather extinguish than ignite any inflammable matter.

Mr. Buddle, in acknowledging the receipt of Mr. Smith's letter, stated that he was on the point of proceeding to Ireland, but, on his return, "would take an early opportunity of calling, to see the improvement on the safety-lamp, and discuss its merits." The interview, however, never took place.

On Wednesday, the 3rd of April, in St. Mary's vestry, there was a meeting of the ratepayers, (the Rector of

Digitized by Google

the chair,) when Messrs. William Brown, West-street, Joseph Smith, Gateshead Fell, William Douglas, Ellison-street, and Joshua Greene, jun., Claremont-place, were elected Overseers of the Poor for the ensuing year; and Messrs. Thomas Revely, S. E. Pearse, James Smith, and T. Hopper, Surveyors of the Highways.

THE GATESHEAD TOWN COUNCIL.

p WILLIAM KENNIR, Esq., Mayor.

ALDERMEN.	COUNCILLORS.		
		p Hymers, J.	Robson, D.
Barras, John	Bertram, C.	Kent, Samuel	Robson, J.
p Brockett, W. H.	p Cummins, T.	Lister, J., sen.	p Smith, James
p Pollock, James	Dunn, Charles	p Lister, J., jun.	Sowerby, T.
Sowerby, G.	p Edward, J.	p Potts, John	Wilson, J. R.
p Wilson, Thos.	p Garbutt, C.	p Revely, T.	Wylam, Ralph
p Davis, Robert			

[Those marked p were present.]

THE Council met on the 3rd of April.—The TOWN CLERK, after reading the minutes of the previous meeting, next read a Report of the Lighting Committee; from which it appeared (among other things) that there were great complaints of an insufficient supply of gas in the town generally, and particularly down Bensham and the South Shore; that some of the public lamps were extinguished for want of gas; that the Street Act Commissioners had felt obliged to remit the rates of certain parties in consequence; and that the matter had been brought under the consideration of the Gas Company, with a suggestion that an allowance should be made for the unlighted lamps. The Report was received and adopted.

Mr. REVELY moved the appointment of a Committee to inquire into certain alterations and encroachments of moment, alleged to have been made in and upon the footpaths over the Windmill-hills. The Committee to present a Report.

Ald. BROCKETT seconded the motion, and it was carried *nem. con.*

The Committee nominated by Mr. Revely consisted of the Mayor, Aldermen Brockett, Davis, Pollock (declined to act), and Wilson, and Councillors Garbutt, Potts, Smith, Edward, and Revely.

Ald. POLLOCK thought the inquiry could serve no other purpose than to put off time: the road across the hills was a public one, and ought to be lighted.

Mr. LISTER, jun., said he would pay no more lighting-rate, except on compulsion, until the road was lighted.

Ald. BROCKETT's motion, as to the lighting of the road across the Windmill-hills, was postponed, until the Report of Mr. Revely's Committee was made,

Mr. REVELY called the attention of the Council to Lord Worsley's bill for the enclosure of common lands. No town had suffered more severely than Gateshead, in consequence of an enclosure act in which no reservation of land was made for public recreation; and the inhabitants having had such bitter experience on this subject, they should feel for others, and endeavour to protect them from a similar fate. He would therefore move that the Council do petition parliament to pass no enclosure act which omitted to reserve a sufficient quantity of land for the recreation of the public.

The motion was seconded by Ald. BROCKETT, and unanimously passed. It was then referred to the Parliamentary Committee to prepare the petition.

The Watch Committee reported that a prisoner had made his escape from the lock-up at the bridge-end, owing to the insufficiency of the walls; and they had therefore ordered the walls of the room to be coated with iron.

Mr. REVELY presented a Report from the Town Improvement Committee, stating (among minor matters):—1. That it had been arranged to allow the exposure of goods for sale in the streets, in the higher and wider parts of the town, under certain restrictions.—2. That the supply of water to the inhabitants, at the north-eastern corner of the Windmill-hills, would shortly be increased, chiefly at the cost of the Bishop of Durham; and that inquiries were in progress with a view to an increased supply in other parts of the borough.

The Report was received and adopted, on the motion of Mr. REVELY, seconded by Ald. POLLOCK.

Ald. BROCKETT presented a Report from the Parliamentary, Railway, and Byelaw Committee, in which upwards of a score of bills were named, which the Borough Member had transmitted to the Town Clerk. One of these was the Newcastle and Darlington Junction Railway and Tyne Bridge Bill; in favour of which the Committee recommended the Council to petition. The Committee also submitted to the Council a correspondence which had passed between the Town Clerk and the solicitors of the Brandling Junction Railway Company; the latter being anxious to have the indictment withdrawn, now that the nuisance from the viaducts, so long complained of, was in course of abatement. The solicitors were informed, that if the Directors, in performance of their pledges, would immediately set about the redress of the other wrongs complained of, and as to which no indictment had been preferred, the application would be entertained, and most probably acceded to. But the suggestion had not been listened to—the palisades in front of Ald. Barras's houses had not been set back, nor had the well in West-street been restored.

The Report having been received, a petition to Parliament was submitted to the Council.

Mr. GARBUTT inquired if it were desirable to petition in favour of the bill in question. Gateshead might benefit by the railway-station, but *that* was already secured. As to the high-level bridge, how was Gateshead to benefit by that?

Mr. LISTER, jun.: By its taking the folks over to Newcastle. (Laughter.)

Ald. DAVIS and Ald. POLLOCK thought the proposed bridge was the best that could be erected for Gateshead. There was sure to be a high-level bridge—either at Gateshead, or to the east or west of it; and in a choice of evils, the least should be selected.

Ald. BROCKETT observed, that the railway could not stop at Gateshead: it must cross the Tyne, and this was the best place for it. If the Eastern Railway were to stop short, the great high-road into Scotland would take a western direction, with all its traffic.

The MAYOR concurred with Ald. Brockett and other gentlemen. He had property in the lower part of the town; but he would not, on that account, oppose the high-level bridge now under consideration; and, indeed, he doubted whether there would be much (if any) loss from the diversion of passengers into a new channel—travellers being a class of persons who purchased very little in their passage through a town. The ratepayers, he might observe, would benefit by the new station, for it would be rated to the relief of the poor.

Ald. WILSON supported the petition, and it was adopted without opposition.

Mr. J. HYMERS brought under consideration an obscurity in the "opinion" of Mr. Baines, and moved that it be referred back to the learned gentleman, to ascertain whether he meant that the landlord was liable for the whole of the rate on tenement-houses, or only for a moiety.

Ald BROCKETT would second the motion, if Mr. Hymers would hold himself bound by Mr. Baines's answer.

Mr. HYMERS replied that he certainly would.

The TOWN CLERK was of opinion that Mr. Baines meant the whole. Ald. POLLOCK was like Mr. Hymers: he had some doubts.

The motion was carried; and when other business had been transacted, the Council separated.

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

AT a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the Borough of Gateshead, holden on the 3d day of April, 1844, (MR MAYOR in the Chair,) the Report of the Town Improvement Committee upon the Memorial of 102 Owners and Occupiers of Shops in Gateshead, praying that the Order of Council made on the 13th December last, prohibiting the Exposure of Goods for Sale upon the Footpaths might be rescinded, or that some limits might be assigned within which they might expose their goods, upon such conditions as might be thought proper, having been brought up,

It was Resolved,—That it is desirable to relax the prohibitory laws against placing and hanging goods for sale upon the public footpaths and carriageways in this borough, as far as may be, without detriment to the public convenience; yet that such convenience must be regarded, and the public rights preserved. And *it is ordered*, that no person shall be allowed to place, hang out, exhibit, or expose to sale any goods or merchandise upon or over any of the public footpaths or carriageways in Bridge-street, Bottle-bank, Church-street, or in that part of High-street which is north of Bailey-chare, on any account or pretence whatsoever, inasmuch as those streets are so narrow, and the thoroughfare therein so great, that no encroachment thereon

Digitized by Google

can be made without detriment and obstruction to the public passage; nor in any part of the other streets, lanes, or avenues, where the public footpaths shall not exceed *eight feet in width.*

And in order that the public rights may be preserved, *it is also ordered*, that *no person shall so place, hang out, exhibit, or expose* any goods, wares, or merchandise, upon or over any of the public footways or carriageways within this borough, (except at the usual and accustomed places on fair days,) *without the express permission of the Commissioners of the Gateshead Street Act;* and that such permission shall be given only on the following conditions (that is to say):—

1. That an acknowledgment shall be paid in each case for such permission.

2. That no other person than the occupier of the shop or premises shall expose goods in front of the same premises; and that in no case shall the permission or occupation be sublet.

3. That the occupier of any shop or premises shall occupy such part of the footpath only as shall be immediately in front of the shop or premises occupied by him.

And upon such other conditions, as to the space to be occupied, as shall appear expedient in each case.

And it is ordered, that it be an instruction to the Town Clerk to print and publish the orders now made, relative to exposing goods on footpaths, and to give public notice, that on and from the *first day of May next, the penalties imposed by the Gateshead Street Act and the Bye-Laws of the Borough*, will be *strictly enforced* against all persons offending against the same orders. By order of the Council,

WILLIAM KELL, Town Clerk.

N.B.—Applications for permission to expose Goods are to be made in writing, addressed to the Chairman of the Town Improvement Committee, and left at the Town Clerk's Office.

Townhall, Gateshead, April 3, 1844.

GREAT GATHERING OF THE PITMEN.

EARLY in the forenoon of April 8, the pitmen of the several collieries in Northumberland and Durham, bearing flags and banners, were seen wending their way from the north and the south, the east and the west, to the Black Fell, in the latter county; and at noon not less than 20,000 were assembled together! Their object, as elsewhere stated, was to consider the bonds that had been prepared on both sides. The annual contract, our readers are aware, came to an end last week; and the coalowners wished to reëngage the pitmen by the month, while Mr. Roberts advised his clients to demand a half-yearly hiring. The terms of the two bonds have appeared in our columns.

Mr. MARK DENT was appointed by the meeting to take the chair, and spoke in substance as follows:—Fellow-men, I feel truly proud at having again to preside over such a meeting as this. Our grievances are severe—they have long called for redress—and we are now determined to be free. (Applause.) I have been told that some one has travelled about 300 miles to tell us that we are deluded. Now, if we are deluded, no one will deny that we are also oppressed and degraded. We have long been treated with scorn. Had our masters held out a tempting bait, we might have taken it; but they have not—they come to us with a miserable proposition. Some men are now working for a mere nothing; but we will stand by the Union—we will stand for our rights—we will be free. (Applause.) I shall not longer intrude upon your time, but now introduce Mr. George Charlton, of South Shields.

Mr. CHARLTON came forward and said:—Fellow-workingmen, as our Chairman has remarked, it is a proud privilege to be present among such a mass of honest and independent men. You know from whence we spring. We have not had those advantages that we should have had. We are a body of men that have been ill-treated. Some have looked with disdain and contempt upon us, because they have not been acquainted with the injustice of our taskmasters; whilst we, who have experienced tyranny and oppression, and have been robbed of our earnings, know and feel the wrongs we have too long endured. Thousands of our fellow-men have been hurried into eternity, and thousands more have been worn down by excessive oppression. We have left our homes, and congregated together—and what a multitude! I trust we shall bid tyranny—aye, every species of tyranny—farewell. (Applause.) I have often traversed this fell before, but never saw it so still as it was this morning; yet what a scene now presents itself! I do not wish to trespass on your patience. I hold a resolution in my hand which I feel proud to move:—"That it being the privilege of every Englishman to get the best price for his labour that he can, every man, therefore, binds himself to stand individually and collectively to obtain a better price than heretofore, and to abstain from working until such prices are paid." (Loud cheers.)

Mr. ROBERT ARCHER, of South Hetton, rose to second the resolution. When (said he) a set of men were bound down by tyranny, they might well feel glad to obtain a jubilee like this. Yes! he looked upon this as the pitmen's jubilee. The long and severe toil they endured, and the little wage they received, must be observable by every reflecting man. O! how they had been held in chains! and just in consequence of their weakness and want of combination. These had allowed their masters to oppress them. But now they were united; and as one who wished to be paid for his labour, he was thankful to meet this morning to ask a fair day's wage for a fair day's work. This meeting (continued Mr. A.) speaks in audible language that we shall be free; and if we do our duty we shall never be oppressed again. You heard the remark of a former speaker—that we, as a body of men, have a right to get the best price for our labour that we can. We have never got it before. How is it that our labour is called *hard* labour? Because it is excessive, with a trifling remuneration. We would not consider our labour hard, were we sufficiently well paid. Wages sweeten labour. Our world is a beautiful world: it is capable of affording enjoyment to all. It is in accordance with the law of God that man shall be paid for his labour. We are assured, by the authority of God, that man shall be rewarded for his toil. We therefore cannot be wrong in asking for pay for our labour. It has been said by our Chairman that a person has travelled many hundred miles to tell us that we are well paid; but we know our case better than he does. This is considered a blessed nation; but, working-men, wealth has been amassed in certain hands—wealth has been concentrated to our injury. We do not wish that the capitalist should not be remunerated for his investments, but we do wish to have as good a share as we can get from the proceeds. Working-men, will you be in bondage when you can free yourselves? (No, no!) I hope you will abide by the resolution then, till we get our rights. It is better to do with little, without work, than to work for little. We have been too long sold into slavery, but we are determined to obtain our ransom. We have everything in our favour. No man—no minister—no government can say we are wrong in endeavouring to obtain what is right. Why do wars arise? Is there no reason? We as men have a cause also—and we have a right to endeavour to obtain redress. I shall now conclude by hoping that we shall stand fast. It has been said that we are the weaker party; but if we exercise that power which we are possessed of, and keep the law, I have no doubt that we shall be successful. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN, on rising to put the resolution to the meeting, said:—As we were going to Glasgow on the coach, two gentlemen entered into conversation about unions, and remarked "that they were all very well, but they could not keep up wages; for as the price of an article became cheap, wages would fall." Now, men, we are better political economists than to believe this doctrine. (The resolution was put, and carried unanimously.)

Mr. GEORGE TULIP rose and said:—Mr. Chairman and fellow-men, I have strange things to tell you. It was anticipated by our employers that there would have been numbers of blacklegs to-day; but they are deceived—every man has come forward and joined the union. A master asked, the other day, what it was the intention of the men to do? and he was told that they were all going to join the union. This has come to pass: we are all now agreed, and have nothing to do but to stand still, and we shall obtain our rights. It was supposed that the Dalton men would have remained at work, and that was all the owners wanted—they hoped to get that colliery kept at work; but the Dalton men have come nobly forward, and joined the union. I therefore propose, at once, that a vote of thanks be given to the Dalton men. [Mr. JOBLING seconded the proposition, and it was carried with loud applause. Three groans were called for for the Ravensworth men, but the call was not responded to. Mr. TULIP proceeded]:—I shall now move my resolution:—"That this meeting is of opinion that the new bonds are of such a nature that we are determined not

Digitized by Google

to submit to them." The bonds (said he) propose monthly agreements; and the effect of such a scheme would be to uproot the union. The masters stated that they had laid off all fines; but a master said he would, when occasion might demand, keep off 4d. from man or boy for any breach of rules. We have been told by the newspapers that they deprecate all unions; but they ought to recollect that in this case the masters have set the example. [Too true.—Ed. G.O.] The masters can all propose together to take off our fines, and we tell them they must all agree to advance our wages also. I look at the battle as already won. If any man has a right to be paid for his labour, it is the coal-hewer. He is the bee that makes the honey. There would be no viewers were there no hewers. Several special constables have been sworn in, but there is no occasion for them: they have been told that they may remain at home now, since the Dalton men have joined the union. (Laughter.)

[A paper was here placed into the hands of the Chairman, stating that the men of South Tanfield colliery were at present under a great disadvantage, having to get through a stone break; and that if they did not finish it they would not get pay for what they had done. About two days would finish it.—There were cries raised that Ludworth, Monkwearmouth, and Kibblesworth were all lying off. However, it was readily agreed that the men of South Tanfield colliery should finish their work now in hand.]

Mr. Jobling rose to second Mr. Tulip's resolution. He said:—I must apologize for my inability to address such a meeting. However, I will do the best I can. I am glad the day is now come that we can abide by the union. The men are not to blame for this:—the masters were the beginners of the union—and we intend to abide by it to the end. No masters can break the union. £300 was offered to break it, but it cannot be done. It is of such a nature that it is impossible to break it. As one that wishes you well, I would advise you to act as men: your rights you will then obtain. Do as you would be done by. We can get our rights by keeping the peace. Never blame our masters if we do not get them. There is the same poison under their tongues as usual. On our master asking how long we would stand out, I told him six months; and if that were not enough, we could stand other six. (Cheers.) The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Edward Richardson, of Derwent iron-works, said:—I suppose you all know what my resolution is. I am happy that it has been so much discussed: every speaker has touched on it. The bond is the next question. A man that has the honour to have the same name as myself, came, gravely, and told us, "We are not going to bind you for seven years, like tailors, shoemakers, &c., but we are going to bind you for a month." It is a bond, in fact, to bind you to lie idle to-day and work to-morrow. It is a bond to allow you to work five days in the week. It is nearly as follows:—"It is hereby agreed that in future there be no odd week, and that wages be paid every Friday—the Thursday to be included." The masters say that we have no right to bind them up to the "hard terms" which we have proposed; but they have less right, surely, to bind us up to terms ten times harder. We have too long been duped by masters and mistresses. I was speaking the other day at a meeting, while a coalowner came up, and a strong sentence escaped my lips. "The coal-hewer," I said, "should be dearer to his employer than his employer's own family. It is through us that he rides in his carriage." We tell our masters, our legislators, and Queen Victoria, that we will have our rights—and that we will get them by fair means too. (Applause.) My resolution is—"That the bond drawn up by W. P. Roberts, Esq., and agreed to by the delegates, is right and just." I'll be bound to say that the one who says it is unjust will not refuse to share the good that may accrue from it, providing it be carried into effect. We wish to be decent, respectable men: we do not wish to ride in carriages. We wish to obtain our rights, and we can only get them by remaining in union. Your beaming countenances tell me that your thoughts and actions are good and true—that we shall obtain our rights, and all that is in our bonds, when in union. There is a man within a mile from this place, who came to my district, and stated that fourteen or fifteen collieries were to commence work to-day, and that there would be no meeting. That man will get what he deserves—the scorpion's lash, through the means of the press. He stated that he was an overman. He was pursued and questioned, but excused himself by saying he had a friend to see at a farm-house. He refused, however, to prove the veracity of his assertion by going to the farm-house. Now this is a specimen of the men who do the dirty work, and such men will exist till a briar springs up and chokes them.

Mr. Thomas Pratt, Castle Eden, rose to second the resolution. The proposition I have in my hand (said Mr. Pratt) concerns every one. It is drawn up by W. P. Roberts, Esq. You are acquainted with the evils of fourteen days' pay, with one week running on. We are always travelling now, to obtain better places and to get better wages; and the evils that arise, on changing a place and entering a new one, by having to work 21 days and receive but 14 or 12 days' wages, are very serious. What is our resort? We have been obliged to ask shopkeepers for two weeks' credit, which compels the family to deal with one shop, and frequently involves them in circumstances which it takes twelve months to extricate them from. One part of our new bond I would call your attention to:—"That no putters and drivers work more than ten hours per day." What has been the effect of twelve hours? It has been frequently extended to 14, 15, and even 16 hours. Even children have been kept from home this length of time. What opportunity is there for improvement? I was told by a viewer that we were so stupid and ignorant that we could not employ time advantageously. Now who is to blame for our stupidity and ignorance, but those who have had the control over us? Another clause is, "That there shall be no fly-doors." I am of opinion that in almost all cases where those fly-doors are used, they should be close doors. Many of you will not know what those fly-doors are. I can assure you I was much astonished the first time I fell in with one. An individual was in a part of a pit which fired, and he declared it to be his conviction that there would have been no fire had there been close doors. The use of those doors saves but a few shillings per day. Is one shilling a day too much for boys confined ten "dowly" hours in gloomy darkness? We as men should protect them against any reduction. I shall now call your attention to the 30-peck tubs. When these were introduced, putters found that they could earn more money; but what followed? They were soon reduced to the price of the 20 peck tubs. Another grievance is the employment of ponies. Boys at the age of 12 or 14 years have the management of ponies; and what can a boy at that age do with a 30-peck tub? You will be aware that many men have been hurried into eternity by those large tubs blocking up the passage of air. In such cases the verdict is "accidental death," notwithstanding the fact that the space is blocked up as if it were by a trap-door. They can bring cases like these in as "accidental!" Now I will give you a case of an opposite nature—and observe the difference. A pony entrusted to the management of a lad ran away from him, and broke its neck. This case was not considered "accidental:" the boy was fined £10. The same boy was fined £5, a short time after, because the pony under his care dashed its eye out against a projection. We have accomplished a great deal. All we want is a fair day's wage for a fair day's work.—Mr. Pratt concluded by urging every man connected with pits to join the union. (Resolution carried unanimously.)

Mr. Joseph Beeston, South Wingate, said:—I rise to move a resolution which takes the blame entirely out of our hands of being the cause of this strike. I shall read it:—"That a deputation is willing to wait on the coalowners to weigh the justice of our terms." We contend that we have a right to have a share in the making of any bargain that we are to work under. Up to the present time we have not had this privilege. The bond has been drawn up by our employers—it has been signed by our hands—and we have been the suffering dupes. We tell the masters that their refusal to comply with our offer of a negotiation has been the cause of the present meeting. They seem to think it will lessen their honour or their dignity, to meet with men as honest and moral as themselves—men whose morality cannot be disputed. (Cheers.)

Mr. Daniels, editor of the *Miners' Advocate*, was introduced to the meeting by the Chairman. I was not aware (said Mr. D.) that I would be called on to speak when I came here to-day. I heartily support the resolution—"That the deputation is willing to wait on the coalowners, and prevent a cessation of labour." I deny *in toto* that the men are to blame for this strike: it is the stubbornness of the masters. I congratulate you on such a meeting as this: it is the noblest I ever addressed. (Resolution unanimously carried).

Digitized by Google

The CHAIRMAN: I have to inform you that the deputies and waggonmen of Hetton colliery have entered the union. (A vote of thanks was given to them, with loud cheers.)

Mr. MITCHELL, of Hetton, moved the next resolution:—"That the present and future welfare of the men of Northumberland and Durham has been much injured by the imposition of a duty on exported coal, and that the Queen be petitioned to repeal the same." It is a fact (said Mr. M.) that the export duty has injured us: we have paid the duty: our wages have been pilfered to pay the government. It is our determination, therefore, to have the duty abolished, and otherwise to better our condition. We do not wish to violate justice, but simply to obtain our rights. We wish, by our fairness and moderation, to win the favour of a sympathizing public. This we shall gain by good conduct—by order and morality; and there is not the shadow of a doubt but that we shall obtain what we want, if only we are peaceable.

Mr. BYRNE, one of Mr. Roberts's clerks, was introduced to the meeting to second the resolution. He alluded to the decreased exportation produced by the duty, and the diminution in wages, and said:—It was the notion of Her Majesty's ministers that by this duty a greater demand would be produced for our manufactures. They thought, by increasing the price of coal, to enhance the cost of Belgian productions, and thereby lessen the competition of the English manufacturers. But what is the fact of the case? The Belgians have sunk pits for themselves; and if the duty were repealed to-morrow, your foreign market would never be what it has been. It was folly, indeed, for our legislators to imagine that a body of capitalists like the Belgian manufacturers, were to be for ever swamped by an export duty on British coal. Capitalists will have a per centage on their capital, no matter what the result may be. There was an allusion made to the black-legs. You are within the pale of the law in this case; and recollect you have no right to coerce or to threaten. He who does so is a traitor to your cause. I would take such a man by the neck, and carry him before a magistrate; and thereby prove that I was worthy of my privileges. I beg and entreat of you to keep your union free from all taint of injustice. If any one of you commit an injustice, he inculpates the whole of the unionists. A man has a right to starve if he pleases, or to live on a meal a-day, but he has no right to violate the law. Truth will obtain your object: it is morally impossible that it should fail. God who gave the earth gave all for all: he set no party to obstruct your productive powers. My last advice is, Threaten no man—no master: commit no breach of the peace.

The CHAIRMAN: I think Mr. Byrne should not have supposed that we intend to coerce. All we say is, that if men will not join us they may do as they like: we have nothing to do with them. (The resolution was carried unanimously.)

Mr. CHARLTON: There was a circumstance that occurred the other day that I forgot to name to you. A friend—as he pretended to be—called upon me, and said he thought we should have a mediator—one who was acquainted with the business—to negotiate matters with the masters; and as he was an experienced person, and at present unconnected with the coal-trade, he had no objections to offer his services. Beware of such wolves in sheep's clothing. There is another circumstance I shall name to you. There is a colliery that has a great quantity of coal on hand, but the owners can get no one to fill the waggons—the men are all in the union. I should like to see the owners with their coats off, filling the waggons themselves. (Laughter.)

Mr. EDWARD RICHARDSON: Mr. Pease had a locomotive employed, to bring a load of picks, for joiners, masons, and others to work with.

The CHAIRMAN: It is not improbable to see the coalowners stripped to work themselves. One of them did try the experiment the other day, but "blushed" his hands, and his wife shed tears at the sight of them. (Laughter.)

It was resolved that there be a general meeting weekly, in each district. There will be a meeting at Tantoby on Wednesday next, at one o'clock.

The CHAIRMAN: There is one thing I wish to impress upon your minds. It has been asserted that if we fail this time we fall for ever. Now I do not believe this. We shall try our mettle; and if we be defeated, still we must not despond.

A letter from the lead-miners of Derwent was read, requesting that copies of the rules and regulations of the union be sent to them. The letter stated that they were from 300 to 400 in number, and 200 had signified their intention to join the union. (Applause.)

After some discussion whether there should be a delegate or a committee-meeting in Newcastle that day (Easter Monday), it was decided that it should be a committee-meeting.

A vote of thanks was given to the Chairman, and the meeting separated. [We cannot enter into the questions at issue between the coalowners and the pitmen:—we shall be happy to hear that they are speedily and amicably settled. It is gratifying, however, to hear the workmen laying such stress on "law and order," and acknowledging the right of non-unionists to pursue their labours unmolested. The actions of the unionists, we hope, will accord with their words. To *us* it is also a source of much satisfaction to learn the sentiments of the pitmen on the subject of the export-duty. Before that duty was imposed, we repeatedly predicted a diminution of trade and wages from its operation; and if our warnings had been generally attended to, the government would never have been allowed to carry their mischievous measure into effect. But the duty was submitted to—it has produced the bitter consequences which we foretold—and Mr. Byrne too truly states that the mischief is in some measure irreparable.—ED. G.O.]

THE EXPORT COAL-DUTY.

THE following observations upon the past and present state, and future prospects, of the export trade in coals, as verbally submitted to Sir Robert Peel and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, at the interview on the 27th March, (by the deputation from the coalowners of Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, and Scotland,) appear to us highly deserving of publicity and consideration. We respectfully request attention to them, not only from those who so confidently predicted that no evil consequences *would* ensue from the export duty, but from those who, with greater effrontery still, have been latterly attempting to persuade the public that no evil consequences *have* ensued. On such gentry, we trust, the "observations" will have a salutary effect.

Without undervaluing the coal-trade and mining interests in other portions of the kingdom, the deputation proceeded with their representations of the great importance of this branch of national enterprise and industry in the counties of Northumberland and Durham—where a capital of probably not less than £9,500,000 had been embarked—where employment is afforded to upwards of 33,000 men and boys, with their various dependants—and upon which a maritime interest of the greatest importance and extent exists; which, in the year 1841, is proved, by official returns, to have furnished the following proportionate employment of the whole amount of shipping of that part of the United Kingdom, viz.:—

	Ships.	Tonnage.
British	4,138	719,190
Foreign	2,932	285,532
Total	7,070	1,004,722

Employed in the coal-trade:—

	Ships.	Tonnage.		
British	4,031	702,575		
Foreign	2,842	275,490		
			6,873	978,065
Leaving for all other branches of trade, only			197	26,067

The great importance of the export of coals to the maritime interests, and likewise to the labouring population of the country, was likewise shown by the following account of the value of such trade:—

Declared value of coals exported in 1843, as per official returns,	£665,331
The freight received on the average is 10s. per ton, which, on 1,845,861 tons exported, is	922,980
	£1,608,311
Received by the proprietor of the coal for rent	30,700
Leaving for labour and materials, in working the coal, and for the shipowner	£1,577,611

After treating upon the great importance of this question to the interests they represented, the deputation alluded to the Report of the Committee of the Commons in 1833, which pointed out the necessity of giving further encouragement to the coal-trade by the remission of the then existing duties.

Digitized by Google

The principles laid down and affirmed in Parliament on that occasion, were:—

That coal, as a British production, was entitled to a *free* exportation.

That the permission could not justly be withheld.

That the consequences would be—More enterprise, more labour, and the direct encouragement of our home and foreign commerce.

It was urged that coal, the value of which has been shown to consist wholly of home produce and home labour, is entitled to free export.

On the views (just views, as the deputation believe,) expressed as above, and subsequent corresponding legislation—

Fresh fields of coal were opened out.

Railways were laid down.

Navigations were improved.

Harbours and docks were executed.

Shipbuilding was energetically followed; and a scene of activity, which can now only be looked back upon, was everywhere visible.

The export of coals in the year 1833 being 615,255 tons, by rapid advances reached 1,996,566 tons in 1842.

The ships employed in the northern ports alone, multiplied from 2,364 in 1833, to 7,070 in 1842.

And in addition to the actual coal-carrying trade, the general commerce of the country was benefited by the increased facilities of intercourse with every country to which coal was exported.

Unfortunately for the coalowners, and the shipping and commercial interests of the country, the rapidly-growing prosperity of this branch of business received a severe blow in the sudden and wholly unexpected change of policy in 1842. The steady increase, which had from year to year continued, and for which capital had been expended in all the different branches of the trade, received, by the imposition of the export-duty on coals, a most severe check.

The consequences resulting from the imposition of such a tax upon the staple commodity of the counties of Northumberland and Durham, was the check to the natural and justly-expected increase of the exports. Considering the vast increase of the steam-boats, and the consequent additional consumption of this description of coal, the diminution has been so serious, that the coal-proprietors hesitated in ascribing it to the operation of taxation, but rather supposed that the deficiency had in part at least been supplied by other districts. The aggregate exports of the kingdom, however, proves the contrary; for if the deputation have been correctly informed, the following is the general state of the exports for 1842 and 1843:—

		Tons.
Exported in 1842, round coals		1,828,069
——— 1843, ditto		1,347,375
Decrease in round coals		480,794
Small coals, 1842	148,001	
———, 1843	455,888	
Increase in small coals		307,887
Decrease in 1843		172,907

The deputation would however observe, as regards the apparent increase of the export of small coals, that the return of that description, in 1842, is only that of the half-year from the 5th of July, 1842, to the 5th of January, 1843; whereas the return of 1843 gives the export for the whole year—no distinction having been made between the export of round and small coals prior to the imposition of the duty.

The deputation have already pointed out the value to the country in labour and materials, and also to the shipping interests, of the entire export of coals: they would here draw attention to the severe loss inflicted upon the different interests connected with the trade, by the falling off in the exports as above shown.

In further illustration of the injurious effect of the imposition of the duty on coals, the deputation would allude to the steady and gradual increase of the export of coke—which pays no duty. The following are the returns from 1840 to 1843:—

	Tons		Tons.
1840	13,783	1842	23,434
1841	15,514	1843	42 698

At this point the deputation strongly urged on the attention of her Majesty's Ministers the depressed state of the shipping interests of the North of England.

As a consequence of a cessation of the increasing demand for its employment, shipbuilding has almost wholly ceased; and the present situation of Sunderland was instanced, where 2,000 to 3,000 able seamen and ship-carpenters are now subsisting on parochial relief—and where great numbers of workmen may be seen breaking stones: the poor-rates also are 20s. in the pound on two-thirds rental, whilst in the adjacent towns 2s. 6d. on rack-rent is the average. At this, which ought to be the busiest season of the year, a considerable number of ships are unemployed—large shipping companies have been broken up with the loss of between fifty and sixty per cent. of capital—many shipowners have been wholly ruined, and to those now in the trade the prospect is most discouraging.

As a further proof of the effects of the imposition of the duty, and the injury to the shipowner, the deputation referred to the diminution of freights to some of the principal ports to which coal is exported:—

	1841.	1843.
Rouen, per keel of 21 1-5th tons	£15 10 0	£13 0 0
Havre, ditto	8 10 0	7 10 0
Amsterdam, ditto	11 0 0	8 15 0
Rotterdam, ditto	9 0 0	8 10 0

And to other ports in the like proportion.

And the deputation pointed out, that so serious a reduction in the rates of freight of so extensive a trade could not be made without affecting the amount of freight of the general carrying-trade of the kingdom, and thus producing the greatest distress to the shipping interest, and which is now so severely felt.

The deputation then represented to her Majesty's Ministers, that besides the reduction of the rates of freight, the coalowners had also been obliged to reduce the price of the coals—that large coal, which in 1841 was sold at 8s. 6d. per ton, is now reduced to 7s. 6d. and 7s., and small coals in like proportion; besides being obliged to resort to rescreening, and thus producing greater waste.

These combined reductions have exceeded the amount of the duty imposed; notwithstanding which, as has been shown, the export has been materially diminished. This apparent anomaly, the deputation ascribe to the stimulus given to the foreign mine-owner to open out and extend his mining operations, in expectation of being able to successfully compete with the British coalowner, in consequence of the latter being subjected to the payment of a duty equal to thirty per cent. of the price of the article.

The deputation stated that this effect had been most extensively produced in Belgium, Spain, and in the south of France; where great exertions had already been made, or were now in progress, to meet the British coalowners in those markets which they had hitherto almost exclusively supplied. These facts the deputation stated they were prepared to establish:—they read extracts of letters from their foreign correspondents, showing the serious interference with their trade in various ports; but considering the statements furnished in 1842 to the Government, of the anticipated effect of the imposition of the tax (all of which had been unfortunately verified), the deputation did not feel warranted in again trespassing upon the time of the Government by repeating the statements therein adduced.

The deputation have already pointed out the serious effect which has been produced upon the shipping interests of the country: they would further point out the effect upon the mining population of the districts, already redundant and dissatisfied, and the disastrous consequences which must result from a further diminution of their labour.

The coalowners have met the competition of the foreigners by such a reduction of price as in many cases to bring it below the cost of production; the consequence of which must inevitably be, the abandonment of some of the collieries now in operation. This effect, both on the coalowners and their workmen, as well as on all the other branches of the trade connected therewith, the deputation consider will be extremely disastrous.

The deputation, therefore, respectfully solicit the favourable consideration of her Majesty's Ministers to the representations which they have thought it their duty, and which they have been kindly permitted, to lay before them; and hope that they may deem it only just to such important interests to remit a tax—almost the only one in the British tariff of a duty on the export of British industry—which, while it adds so little to the revenue of the country, has been, and the deputation apprehend

Digitized by Google

will continue to be, productive of great distress to all the different interests engaged in the trade.

[The pitmen, we have elsewhere shown, are petitioning against this obnoxious export-duty. Every class of artisans and workmen should do the same; for a more grievous or more indefensible interference with the rights of British industry was never resorted to by any Administration.]

THE COLLIERS' STRIKE.

(From the *Gateshead Observer*, April 20, 1844.)

DURING this week, a number of colliers have left the Tyne in ballast, to load coals in the neighbourhood of Leith for the London market!

On Monday, a district meeting of the pitmen belonging to Cowpen and the neighbouring collieries was held on Blyth Links, (Mr. Mordue in the chair). The meeting was addressed by various local speakers, and continued about two hours; after which the men dispersed and retired quietly to their respective homes. About 3,000 were present. Similar meetings have been held at other places in the northern coal-district.

To "correct the misrepresentations of the press," and truly explain their grievances, the pitmen propose to hold a public meeting in the Arcade long-room, Sunderland, on Monday evening.

A correspondent of the *Times*, London newspaper, writing from Sunderland, says:—

The sailors' strike being just over at this port, the pitmen's strike threatens to inflict still greater mischief on the shipowners and also the sailors, many hundreds of whom ... out of employment. Reports of slight disturbances among the colliers in the Durham coal-field are constantly reaching the town; and these, as well as the conduct of the pitmen generally, form the ordinary topic of conversation. The opinion amongst those best informed on the subject appears to be, that, considering the present advisers of the men, the strike will be a protracted one, provided the shopkeepers in the pit villages will supply the men with goods on credit. I am inclined to think many of them will do so, for they are bound up in feeling as well as interest with the men, and are easily persuaded that the colliers are an injured body, and that the masters are disposed to grind them into the dust for the gratification of their selfish and sordid purposes. A Chartist lecturer, named Dickenson, is endeavouring to enlist the sympathies of the working classes on behalf of the pitmen by the delivery of exciting addresses. A petition, emanating from a public meeting of working men (including many of the colliers lately employed at the Monkwearmouth colliery), is also in course of signature against the Master and Servants Bill, which it is supposed (I do not know with what reason) will press with peculiar severity on the mining population. The petition has already received about 1,000 signatures; and when completed it is to be forwarded to Mr. Duncombe, for presentation to the House of Commons—Mr. Ferrand, and the members for the borough and the county, being earnestly requested to support it.

A correspondent of the *Economist*, London newspaper, who writes from Bishopwearmouth, says: — "Whatever errors the workmen may entertain respecting their power by union to fix and secure a certain price for their labour, and also as to the utility of imposing limitations on others respecting the quantity of labour to be performed, the masters cannot with consistency censure them while they retain *their* combination, and fix the quantity of coals to be wrought at each colliery." The Editor remarks:—"Undoubtedly not. The coalowners have long had a very compact union, which (they think) has greatly served their interests. What right they have to stigmatize a union among the workmen having precisely the same objects, we cannot conceive."

The *Leicester Journal*, a Tory newspaper, quotes from the *Miners' Advocate*, published in Newcastle, a statement of the condition of the Leicestershire pitmen, and says that it is "a tissue of falsehoods from beginning to end."

The *Newcastle Journal*, in an article of Saturday last, states that Mr. W. P. Roberts, the pitmen's "Attorney-General," has a salary of £1,000 a-year, and lately favoured his clients with a law-bill amounting to £335! Not a detail did he give—not an item did he state—but made a lumping charge of three hundred and thirty-five pounds! He also had the modesty to ask them to make Beesley his "articled clerk," at an expense of £140! [The cry now is, "What has become of the Attorney-General?" Has he, too, "struck work?"]

The *Newcastle Advertiser*, Thursday, April 18, states:—

Every exertion is being made to protect the property and persons of the well-disposed. On Monday, a troop of the 8th Hussars, under the command of Captain Desalis, and a company of the 37th Regiment, marched from Newcastle to Durham, as a more central point should their services be required. On the same morning, a company of soldiers left Sunderland barracks for Durham; and another company were under orders to start at 8 o'clock for South Hetton Colliery, but counter orders reached the barracks on Sunday night that they were not to proceed until further orders. The preventive service men from Sunderland, Seaham, and Castle Eden, went by railway on Monday to Thornley colliery, where they will be stationed for the preservation of the peace. Upwards of 70 special constables were sworn at South Hetton on Saturday. With all these arrangements there is little danger of violence. Since Saturday, a considerable quantity of coals have been brought down the railway to Sunderland, but it is thought the supplies of the collieries that ship at that port will soon be run out. It is said Lord Londonderry has upwards of 16,000 chaldrons at bank, but these will of course be shipped at Seaham. It is understood that the stocks at bank at many of the collieries will supply the demand for a short time; and it is fully expected that measures will be speedily devised to get some of the principal collieries set partially, if not fully to work, as men can be obtained who will gladly go to work on the terms proposed by the coalowners.

The *Durham Chronicle* calculates that by this strike at least £50,000 per week, that would otherwise have been paid in wages, on the banks of the Tyne, Wear, and Tees, is withheld from circulation. Threatening letters, our contemporary states, have been sent to various parties. We copy two of them:—

Thomas Johnson Castle Eden Colliery

We are infirmed that you have Started to Brake a Standing ingine at Castle Eden on the 15th of April 1844. Therefore as i have the honner to Be the Mother of so Numourous a famely i wish to take the opertunity of infirming you of the Danger that you are standing in. and you Know Not how Soan the Result May Be. As you know that youre felow workmen has Joined the Union for to Shorten the hours of Labor, and to obtain an advance of wages (and you have Taken there Plases) therefore take Notice That if you Remain as you are you may Rest Ashoured that at an honrewhen you Think Not that your Life will Be Demanded in Such a Manner as you think Not. if you are inclined to live a little Longer you Must Join the Union as Soan as Posable and Be As a Man in the *Land of Freadem*.

Signed on Behalph. Mis Cromewell and your Leage Ladey. Rebeckah.

From the Mountains.

Sir—this is to Certify you that you stand in dangerous situation and you are likewise cutting all the mens throughts that are on the Colliery and I do hereby give the my best advice to quit as soon as you can if you want to do good for your self and if you do not quit this day your name is intended to be sent to the *advocate* and you may depend upon it if we ever get our demand you shall not have a situation throuout the two Countys if you live to see it for I myself would not give twopence for your life.

Our Durham contemporary adds: — "On Monday morning last, a company of the 37th Foot, commanded by Major Franklin, arrived in this city from Sunderland; and on the evening of the same day a troop of the 8th Hussars, under the command of Capt. de Salis, marched in from Newcastle. On Wednesday afternoon, another troop of Hussars arrived from York."

The *Newcastle Chronicle* of yesterday, after observing that "the strike still continues, and with little prospect of a speedy cessation," points out to the pitmen the depressed state of the coal-trade, and its inability to afford a higher rate of wages. This we believe to be the case. To our certain knowledge, one of the collieries now lying idle has been so unproductive to its lessees, that the owner has reduced the rent one-half; and yet the workmen demand an increase of wages equivalent to 75 per cent. Were the lessees to give the advance required, they must sacrifice £10,000 a-year, in addition to what they have already lost! The *Chronicle* states:—

During the past week rumours of alarming disturbances in the county of Durham were very general in Newcastle; and with the view of ascertaining the real state of the case, we sent our reporter to the district in question, and we are happy to say that the reports were greatly exaggerated. The only disturbance of consequence, that we have been able to make out, occurred at Kelloe, where, in consequence of some men being engaged in filling waggons with coal from the heap, a number of pitmen assembled to prevent their doing so. They were remonstrated with by Mr. Brydon, the viewer, and G. Stephenson and S. Robinson of the rural police, who were stationed there for the protection of the colliery, but without effect, for the men at work were assailed with volleys of stones, until they were driven from the place, and were afterwards pursued, and beaten so severely, that one of them, William Hodgson, had his arm broken. In consequence of this, information was sent off to Major Wemyss, Chief Constable at Durham; upon which that gentleman, accompanied by R. Burdon, Esq., and Col. Shipperdson, magistrates, immediately went to Kelloe, and a detachment of the 37th Regiment was also sent from Sunderland. The result was, that five men, William Wanless, William Mason, Edward Dickenson, Robert Atkinson, and Thomas Lonsdale, were taken into custody, and committed to Durham gaol, to take their trial at the sessions, for being concerned in the above outrage. With this exception no disturbance worth mentioning has occurred, but the few men who are at work are conducted to and from the pits by the police, who are saluted by the hootings of the other men and their wives as they pass.

The *Newcastle Courant* of yesterday remarks that "reconciliation seems more remote, if possible, than ever."

Digitized by Google

Rumours there have been (says our contemporary) of concessions being made by the men of various collieries; but these have, on examination, been found groundless, and there seems no reason for supposing that the resolution to abide by the union is not nearly unanimously concurred in.

At Kelloe colliery, Durham, on the 10th instant, a few off-hand men were requested to assist in filling some waggons with coals. As soon as the circumstance became known, the whole of the miners of Kelloe, Garmondsway, Cassop, and Quarrington-Hill collieries turned out in procession, headed by their flags, and proceeded to near the place where the men were at work, hurraing and making a great noise. One of the workmen said he would shoot any person who went near, and accordingly pulled out a pistol: he was almost immediately struck with a stone, and a scene of riot followed, in which a person named Hodgson was severely wounded. Riots of a similar description have taken place at Castle Eden, Thornley, South Wingate, Brancepeth Park colliery, and other parts of Durham. The women assumed as offensive a position as that taken by their husbands; and, indeed, seemed more reckless of consequences. In the meantime the authorities have not been inactive. On Sunday, a meeting of magistrates was held at Durham; and on Monday morning a company of the 37th Regiment of Foot, commanded by Major Frankland, arrived in that city from Sunderland; and in the evening a troop of Hussars, under the command of Capt. De Salis, arrived there from Newcastle. About one o'clock on Wednesday morning, Major Wemyss, and a large body of the rural police force, accompanied by about twenty of the 37th Infantry, proceeded to Kelloe, having warrants for the apprehension of ten persons, charged with having been concerned in the disturbances; but they succeeded in capturing only five. The examination of these were gone into on the following morning in the Justice Room, Durham, but with closed doors, even solicitors and reporters being excluded. During the investigation sentinels paced in front of the building; and at its close the prisoners were fully committed for trial on the charge of conspiracy and rioting with intent to raise wages. In the course of the same day, another troop of the 8th Hussars reached the city from York. A considerable number of special constables have been sworn in at South Hetton; and the preventive service men from Seaham, Sunderland, and other vicinities have also been called into requisition at various places, Thornley among the rest. General Arbuthnot, commanding officer of the northern district, has arrived at Durham, and has addressed the pitmen. He is stated to have recommended them to be peaceable, assuring them that in case of violence the military would do their duty, and that effectually.

The number of men still at work is not clearly to be ascertained. The following is a list of some:—On the *Tyne*:—Team colliery, 31; Oakwellgate, 7; Burdon Main, 20; Mickley, 10 or 11. On the *Wear*:—At Elvet (land-sale), 8 men. On the *Tees*:—Evenwood, 24; Cragwood, 9 or 10. In all these cases, Mickley only excepted, the work is going on under the protection of bodies of police; and from Mickley applications for protection have been made. It is understood that the colliers of Spital Tongues are willing to return to work, provided such a step be sanctioned by the union: they are at present employed in forwarding the work of the gardens attached to the colliery dwellings. Both on Wednesday and Thursday, three pitmen working at Oakwellgate, Gateshead, but who reside at Byker, have been obliged to be escorted home by the Newcastle police. They were followed by a large mob, who hooted them vehemently; and, in their progress, some fishwomen assailed them with offal, and other offensive missiles. The offenders were, however, captured, and now lie in durance.

In Northumberland, so far as we have heard, no breach of the peace whatever has occurred. Still, applications for protection have been made to Mr. Stephens, superintendent of our police, from several collieries. They have been referred to the borough authorities, and are now under consideration.

The only "monster" meeting of the week was one of the collieries of the Wear, which was held at Pittington Hill on Monday, and at which upwards of 10,000 were present. The resolutions adopted were similar to those agreed upon on Black Fell. Various district meetings have also been held, apparently for the purpose of keeping the men firm to their resolution. At all of them they were exhorted to act quietly, and to respect both the law and its administrators.

The strike is felt by the small shopkeepers, who have been in a great measure dependent on the custom of the miners; and, if persisted in, the consequences must be ruinous. The tradesmen of Newcastle, Sunderland, and other towns, similarly situated, cannot long remain insensible of its influence. Already freights are wholly suspended.

In Oakwellgate colliery, Gateshead, belonging to Messrs. Easton, and referred to by the *Courant*, there have been this week about 12 or 14 men at work—two or three of whom, as stated by our contemporary, live at Byker, a distance of a couple of miles, and on the opposite side of the river:—the remainder reside in this borough. The Byker men have been escorted, each day, by a strong party of the Newcastle and Gateshead police, from the pit to their homes, in consequence of the hostile attitude assumed by several hundreds of persons (chiefly, however, women and boys,) whose hootings, and whose resort, in some cases, to missiles, created apprehensions of outrage. On Thursday, one or two fellows, in the act of throwing stones at the police while escorting the pitmen, were apprehended in Gateshead, and have been committed to Durham gaol; and one or two "fish-ladies" in Newcastle, who had used the heads and entrails of their stock in-trade as weapons of offence, were also taken care of. Beyond these misdemeanours, nothing material has occurred; and it is to be hoped that the pitmen generally do not approve of the molestation of men who are only practising what the members of the union constantly preach—viz., "doing what they will with their own property—their labour." The Mayor and several of the Magistrates of this borough were in Oakwellgate, both yesterday and Thursday, superintending the operations of the police. At Team colliery, on the southern boundary of this borough, we understand there are about 30 or 40 hewers at work, under the protection of the county-police; and, hitherto, they have met with little or no interruption.

The *Stafford Advertiser* makes several significant statements, which ought not to be thrown away on the unionists of Northumberland and Durham. Our contemporary observes:—

The state of things in reference to the colliers "on strike" in the Potteries and neighbourhood, is daily assuming a different aspect; and it is evident that unless something extraordinary occurs, the turn-out will soon be at an end. Last week we stated that a few of the unionists had dissolved their connection with that body and returned to their work, and since then others have followed their example. From the pittance doled out to the turn-outs from the union funds, the state of destitution to which many of the men, with their families, are reduced, is very great. Nor are the evils consequent on the strike likely to prove of a transient nature. It is generally admitted that there was a superabundance of hands to work in the mines; but whilst this contest has been going on, many men (labourers, &c.,) who would in all probability never have entered into the business, have, by the force of circumstances, been set to work by some of the colliery-proprietors, some of whom may continue to follow their new employ, of course to the exclusion of the old workmen. The strike has also induced a number of strangers to come into the neighbourhood, who have had but little difficulty in meeting with employment. That many of the turn-outs are very uneasy in the present posture of affairs, is apparent from the following fact:—Last week one proprietor was left entirely without hands, in consequence of having discharged two or three men for misconduct, upon which all the men ceased work. This week the proprietor alluded to has got as many men as he requires, wholly unconnected with the union, and but a very few of the old hands amongst them, the new men being chiefly from other parts of the country. The old system of twelve hours a day allowing meal times) at four shillings, has been adopted in this case to the perfect satisfaction of the men. The late hands, seeing their places in jeopardy, went and offered themselves almost upon any terms; but their offer was too late. The district is perfectly tranquil.

In laying these facts before the pitmen of the North of England, we cannot be suspected of any undue bias on the side of the coalowners. The pitmen know the *Gateshead Observer* to have been, from the beginning, a most decided opponent of the union established by the coal-proprietors, our conviction of its suicidal impolicy and injustice being firm and deep-rooted. Our recommendation, therefore, of a speedy termination of the pitmen's strike, cannot be attributed to other than friendly motives. We think our industrious neighbours to be misled by interested advisers; and for their own sakes, as well as for the good of the district, we counsel them to desist from their present unhappy course of conduct.

FIRE IN GATESHEAD.—Last night (the 12th April), when we were "preparing for press," a fire broke out in the premises of Messrs. J. & J. Robson, engine-wrights, near the east end of Hillgate, and at a short distance from the old Rectory. The "Newcastle," "North British," and Messrs. Hawks & Crawshay's fire-engines were promptly on the spot; but their aid was ineffectual to save the building and its contents from destruction. The damage is roughly estimated at about £500; and the property, we are sorry to hear, was not insured. Being isolated, no other premises suffered from the fire.

GATESHEAD INSTITUTION FOR TRAINING FEMALE SERVANTS.—The annual sale of articles took place at the townhall (April 11) under the auspices of Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Swinburne, Mrs. Vickers, Mrs. George Boyd, Mrs. Henry Walker, Mrs. Glaholm, Miss S. Elliot, and Miss Burnett. The refreshment-tables were set out in another room, under the superintendence of Mrs. Brady. The sale realized £32 5s., being an advance of £8 1s. 2d. upon the proceeds of the sale of last year. The very respectable, intelligent, and healthy appearance of the pupils in attendance, and the propriety of their demeanour, must have been highly gratifying to the patrons and friends of the institution.

GATESHEAD FREE TRADE SOCIETY.—The Committee met at the Grey Horse inn on the 10th April, at 8 o'clock, (Mr. John Fawcett in the chair). It was resolved:—1. That public meetings be discontinued during the summer months. 2. That

Digitized by Google

the sense of the electors on the corn-laws be taken, by obtaining their signatures to a requisition to the Member for the borough, expressing a hope that he will be in his place to support Mr. Villiers's motion for an inquiry into the corn-laws, with a view to their total and immediate repeal. It was observed that this was not intended to imply any doubt of Mr. Hutt's voting for the motion, the honourable member having declared his intention of so doing, but simply as a test of feeling of the electors.

THE COLLIERS' STRIKE.

(From the *Gateshead Observer*, April 27, 1843.)

THE North Staffordshire colliers are fast dissolving their connection with the union, and resuming work; so that those collieries, particulary at Longton, which were almost or quite at a stand, are now in active operation. The "turn out" may therefore be considered as drawing to a termination, though matters are still in an unsettled state at some of the collieries.

Most of the Nottinghamshire and several of the Derbyshire collieries are doing very little work. There has been a large meeting of the coal masters in the counties of Derby, Nottingham, and Leicester, with those connected with the North Midland Railway, at which it was determined not to employ any colliers in the union, and to put it down previously to entertaining the question of any regulation in wages or prices of coals.

The *Glasgow Argus* states, that at a meeting of the iron trade, on the 17th inst., it was unanimously resolved, unasked, to advance the wages of the colliers and miners in Monkland district 6d. per day, on condition of the absurd restriction by the miners to two-thirds of their out-put being given up.

The owners of a colliery in Northumberland, it is rumoured, have sent for four or five hundred Shetlanders, to work in their pits.

"'Tis an ill wind that blows nobody good." Now that coals are scarce, the coalowners are getting rid of their old pit-heaps. At one colliery, the owners are about to lay down a railway to a huge mountain of small-coal, which, before the present strike, was looked upon as unmarketable. At Sunderland and Seaham the supply of coal still continues to be pretty good.

M. Dillon, French consul at Newcastle, has written to the Commissaire-General of Havre, to say that "in consequence of the turn-out of the colliers in the North of England, there is every reason to believe that for the next month or five weeks all exportation of coals from Newcastle, Sunderland, Stockton, Hartlepool, Seaham, and Blyth must be of necessity suspended. M. Dillon prays the commissaire to communicate this fact to the manufacturers of his arrondissement."

The pitmen of our district, on the whole, have been remarkably peaceable during the week. More arrests, however, have taken place, arising from some ungentle movements which occurred at the commencement of the turn-out. The parties apprehended include four men from Wingate Grange, four from Cassop, and one from Kelloe, in addition to the five noticed last week. The whole of these, after having been committed for trial, have been admitted to bail.

At Spitaltongues there are a few men at work on the waste; and some of the turn-outs having thrown stones at them, the owners applied for and obtained a party of police, whose presence has had the desired effect of preserving quiet.

The collieries mentioned in our last (says the *Newcastle Chronicle*) continue partially at work under the same circumstances, the only difference being the addition of a few hands at Mickley. We have not heard of any other colliery being at work in this neighbourhood, but intimation has been received from Mr. Pease that forty men were going to work at Adelaide pit, near Auckland, on Wednesday. The evil consequences of this stoppage of the collieries, to our trade, are beginning to be seriously felt; and one of its effects has been that a considerable number of vessels, not having been able to procure cargos here, have this week gone to Scotland, to obtain coals to supply the southern markets—the whole amount of which is, of course, an absolute loss to this district. All those trades depending upon the collieries are necessarily at a stand, and others are put to great inconvenience and expense from the difficulty of obtaining fuel, which is becoming scarce and greatly increased in price. Altogether we have heard it estimated that no less an amount than £40,000 per week is lost in wages alone, the injurious effects of which cannot fail of, being severely felt in every branch of trade. Every day, of course, aggravates the evil; and it is therefore most devoutly to be wished that another week may not pass without an arrangement being come to, and the labour of the district being resumed. It is gratifying to state that the utmost order prevails; and except an occasional ebullition of feeling against those men who continue at work, no disposition to create a riot or disturbance has been any where evinced. The only outrage we have heard of, (and that may not be connected with the strike,) was at Sacristan colliery, where about 60 yards of wire-rope, upon the incline, were cut off and taken away. The magistrates, in consequence, swore in a number of special constables there, and a reward of £50 was offered to discover the offenders, but hitherto without effect. Several district meetings of the men have been held, at which resolutions to hold out were agreed to.

To explain their grievances, and "to correct the misrepresentations of the press" relative to them, the workmen of Monkwearmouth colliery originated a public meeting of the inhabitants of Sunderland, which was held in the Arcade long-room on Monday evening. The meeting—which comprised a very mixed assemblage of pitmen from various places, some colliery-owners and others interested in collieries, as well as a considerable number of the middle and working classes of Sunderland—was most numerously attended. The speakers were all pitmen; and the ability they displayed, the systematic manner in which they brought forward the leading features of their case, and the good feeling that generally characterized their addresses, surprised many, and appeared to please all.—Mr. N. Morgan, of Monkwearmouth, was called to the chair. He explained, as reasons for the meeting, the necessity that existed for information respecting the grievances of the pitmen, the importance of understanding the object of the strike, and its effects on all the leading interests of this district. He noticed the charge that the pitmen were instigated in their present course by hired demagogues. This, he said, would be answered by the fact of the present meeting being got up and conducted by the pitmen themselves. They were no hired advocates. He believed they were capable of judging what was for their own interests; and if they found amongst them any demagogues of the description stated, the men would soon eject them. He concluded amidst loud cheers, and called upon Mr. Tulip, of South Hetton, to speak.—Mr. Tulip then entered into an explanation of the origin of the Miners' Union, and the cause of the present strike. With reference to the former, he said that during the period of twelve years that they were disunited, the wages of the pitmen had been year by year reduced; that they were now, in many collieries, quite insufficient to provide them with the necessaries of life; that in the "baff week" (the week previous to obtaining their fortnight's wages) many men had no other support than bread and water, except what they might get from some of their more fortunate brethren; that so miserable, in fact, had their lot become, that they might as well starve with ease of body, as toil and starve. He complained that the amount of guarantee-money had been greatly reduced, and that the average earnings of all the men on the colliery were taken, by which a man, though apparently guaranteed to earn 26s. per fortnight, might not earn more than 10s. He emphatically disclaimed any feeling against the owners; he believed they were misled by the viewers. The men, he said, were most reluctant to strike—and never would have done so, had any disposition to ameliorate their condition been shown; and now they were anxious to end it, if the masters would meet them in a fair spirit; but if not, the men never were more resolute, and it would be a long time before they thought of surrendering. He knew the strong determination of the men; and if no concessions were made, they would never submit to a continuance of the present system.—Mr. Pratt, of Castle Eden colliery, spoke at great length upon the subject of fines and penalties. From his statement it appeared that there were many offences, subject to various fines, from 3d. to 5s. He complained that they were sometimes unjust in principle, frequently capriciously levied, always excessive in amount, and sometimes most extortionate and ruinous in their application—in some instances not only depriving men of any earnings, but even leaving them in debt after they have toiled.—Mr. Mitchell, of Ouston, came forward to conclude the meeting, and his speech embraced a summary of the leading features of the pitmen's case, an apology for errors and faults that might have been committed, an earnest appeal to the sympathy of the meeting, an emphatic declaration in favour of the peace and non-inter-

Digitized by Google

forbearance policy to be pursued by the men, and the expression of a wish for an honourable and speedy settlement of the dispute between them and their employers.—Mr. G. Charlton, of South Shields, briefly spoke; after which the thanks of the meeting were proposed to the Chairman, and carried by acclamation.—The addresses of the various speakers were loudly cheered.

On Tuesday, a meeting of delegates, representing the two counties, was held at Durham. The text from which the speeches were made was "Peace, Law, and Order;" and indignant strictures were made on such outbreaks as that at Spitaltongues. In the course of the proceedings it appeared that Mr. Roberts had received £901 19s. 8d. from Mr. Martin Jude, the treasurer, towards the sum of £1,000 which had been guaranteed, viz., £500 for a year's salary, and £500 in consideration of breaking up his establishment, and removing to the North of England.

THE PITMEN OF THE PAST AND PRESENT DAY.—The author of the *Pitman's Pay*, in the preface to his recent edition, observes:—

The pitman's character has undergone considerable amelioration. The progressive intellectual improvement of all classes of society has had its due effect upon him. He is no longer the same ignorant, degraded being that his forefathers were—a victim to the worst prejudices and passions of our nature. In illustration of the outrageous and lawless conduct of the colliers, in bygone days, the following facts may be stated: — Whenever they considered themselves aggrieved, they "struck," or, in the language of that day, a "steck" took place. These "stecks" generally originated on the Wear; and, by way of enforcing their demands, the malecontents immediately "laid in" all the pits in the district. The mode of proceeding in such cases was this:—The men with whom the strike commenced, visited all the neighbouring collieries; and, on their arrival at each pit, they hung on a corf, filled with stones, at the same time hanging on the clog. The weight of the corf moved the gin; and as the former descended, the latter gained velocity, until the clog, flying out in the air, knocked away the supports of the gin, and laid it on its side, thus rendering it totally unfit for use, and thereby putting a stop to all work for some time to come. This was the mode then generally resorted to, for compelling redress of grievances—a practice that would not be even thought of in the present day.

The present peaceable "strike"—(for acts of outrage have so far been rare, and confined to a small minority,) presents a gratifying contrast to the "strikes of former times.

RISE IN COAL PRICES ON THE TYNE.—In consequence of the "strike," the prices of coal, at several of the collieries which had stocks on hand, have been raised. The following are a few instances:—

	PRICES OF COAL. Before the Strike.	After the Strike.
Clark & Co.'s Wallsend, ⅌ ton	7s. 3d.	9s. 3d.
Glennell's Wallsend	7s. 3d.	9s. 3d.
Hebburn Main	8s. 9d.	10s. 6d.
West Hartley	8s. 6d.	11s. 6d.
Dean's Primrose, unscreened	7s. 6d.	8s. 0d.

Small coals, (for home-manufacturers' use, or "river vend,") usually a "drug" at 4s. per chaldron, are now being sold at 10s. and 12s., and even as high as 13s.!

BURGLARY IN GATESHEAD.—The counting-house of Mr. John Potts, wine and spirit merchant, situated in the yard behind the *Observer* office, was broken open in the night of April 23. There had been, at least, two burglars engaged in the forcible entry; for the marks of two crowbars were visible upon the doors and door-post. A till was forced open, and also a desk; but the thieves obtained no other booty than a few shillings and two or three bottles of wine and spirits, with a few silver spoons. On Wednesday, a woman, instigated by revenge, made a communication to the Newcastle police—in consequence of which, three persons are now in custody, viz., James Jackson, John Scott, and Elizabeth Scott. The prisoners were yesterday brought before the Bench in Gateshead, and remanded for a week.

This Day is Published,

A PLAN of PART of the TYNE and WEAR COAL DISTRICTS, in the County of Durham, being the SECOND of J. T. W. BELL'S SERIES OF PLANS of the

GREAT NORTHERN COAL-FIELD,

On a Scale of Thirty-two Chains to an Inch.

This Plan extends, on its Southern margin, from Seaham Harbour to Houghton-le-Spring, Lumley, Waldridge, and Holmside, near Lanchester; on its Western margin, from Shieldrow Colliery, Tanfield, Hollingside, and Swalwell; and is bounded on the North by the River Tyne, and on the East by the Sea. On it are delineated the Boundaries of Estates, Royalties, and Collieries; also the Coal Pits, Railways, Quarries, Roads, Towns, Villages, &c., with the Names of the Owners of the different Royalties, Depth of Pits, &c.

Price Two Guineas plain, Three Guineas coloured.

Coloured, and Mounted on Cloth and Rollers, £3 10s.

To be had of the Author, J. T. W. Bell, Engineer and Surveyor, Castle Eden, and of Mr. John Bell, Surveyor, Gateshead; of whom may be had the Plan of "The Hartlepool Coal District," being the First of the Series.

Castle Eden, 27th April, 1844.

JUST PUBLISHED,

By EMERSON CHARNLEY, in Crown 8vo., Price 4s. Cloth Boards, or 5s. in Leather,

THE PITMAN'S PAY, and other POEMS.—By THOMAS WILSON.

London: Simpkin, Marshall, & Co.

THE DISSENTERS' CHAPELS BILL.

THE *Leeds Mercury*, conducted by Independents, has an article on this Government measure, from which we make the following extract:—

Our reasons for thinking that there should be such a limitation of actions as is intended to be provided by this bill are as follow:—

The present holders of the chapels are in almost every case the lineal descendants of the individuals by whom the chapels and schools were built. They and their ancestors for several generations had worshipped there. Their family graves are in the chapel yards.

In nearly every case the religious opinions of the principal persons in the congregation, if not of a majority, changed more or less gradually: there was no disturbance of possession: there was no violent usurpation: the ministers were elected in the manner provided by the trust-deeds.

In nearly every case, this change of doctrine took place one, two, or more generations back—and of course not in the time of the present holders.

The present holders, therefore, have all the feelings of rightful possessors, and they would feel themselves outraged and persecuted by the wresting of the chapels from them.

Those who retained orthodox opinions in the congregations long ago quitted the chapels, and, joining themselves with others, built new chapels, which they or their descendants at present occupy—so that their wants are now supplied.

The chapels in question have in many cases been repaired, and in some cases enlarged or rebuilt, by the present occupants, who may have spent as much money on them as the original cost.

If the chapels were recovered from the Unitarians, it might be difficult to decide whose property they should be.

If they were assigned to the Independents, that body would not have the means of filling them—they are already provided with chapels: what they seek is, congregations, churches, souls, not naked walls and empty pews.

But the expenses of litigation would, in most cases, far exceed the value of the buildings.

The suits might be instituted by mere speculating and pettifogging attorneys in London, whose acts would be laid at the door of the orthodox Dissenters generally.

If the Unitarians were ousted, they would build new and more spacious chapels, and their zeal and self-sacrifice would only be inflamed by the feeling that they were persecuted for conscience' sake.

The argument in favour of returning these chapels to the Trinitarian Dissenters, would be as good for returning most of the edifices and charities of the Protestant Church to the Roman Catholics.

That argument would also equally prevent the use of churches or chapels, in future, by bodies holding opinions different from, even though *more true* than, those of the founders.

The principle of *limitation* is quite familiar to the law of England. In private property, undisputed possession for twenty years is a legal bar to an action; and there are many other laws of a similar character.

Litigation between different classes of Dissenters would separate the friends of religious liberty, at a time when they can ill afford such separation.

If suits should be commenced to recover the chapels, religious doctrines would be discussed in our courts of equity, in a manner scarcely consistent with propriety or decency.

Without such a law as that which it is proposed to pass, the several chapels would be held in painful insecurity, and could not be repaired or rebuilt.

For all these reasons, we think Government has done wisely in bringing in the bill, and we should much regret to see the orthodox Dissenters petitioning against it.

The candid writer of this article assumes that the chapels were built for Trinitarian worship—an assumption which the congregations in question do not concede.

Digitized by Google

THE COLLIERS' STRIKE.

(From the *Gateshead Observer*, May 4, 1844.)

NOTHING has occurred, this week, in connection with the strike, worthy of lengthened notice. The masters' report, inserted elsewhere, is an emphatic repudiation of the terms proposed in the new bond, and shuts out all hope of the first step towards reconciliation being taken by them. On the other hand, an advertisement drawn up by a committee of the men impugns the accuracy of some of the important statements contained in the report in question. It therefore appears that whatever concession may hereafter be made on either side will be the fruit of necessity rather than of conviction. In some instances coalowners have procured hands sufficient to bring their works partially into operation: this is the case at Spital Tongues (where 16 hewers are employed and 20 lads), at Percy Main, and at Seghill. Large meetings were held yesterday (Thursday), at the Ballast-hills and at Cullercoats, at both of which a determination was evinced to abide by the union.—*Newcastle Courant.*

One or two collieries in the Auckland district, and one on the Tyne, it is said, have resumed work—a sufficient number of hands having been found willing to engage themselves on the terms proposed by the masters.—*Durham Chronicle.*

Several parties of pitmen are travelling the country with musical instruments, to pick up a livelihood during the strike.

The *hewers* now at work, in the collieries of the Tees and the Tyne, are in number about as follow:—

ON THE TEES.			
Brancepeth	16	Storey Lady's	12
Old Etherley	6	Woodfield	8
Woodhouse Close	9	Willington	9
Gordon and Evenwood	42		102 —
ON THE TYNE.			
Tanfield Lea	16	Oakwellgate	6
Tanfield Moor	16	Derwenthaugh	15
Percy Main	35	Seghill	a few
Leazes Main	15	Mickley	25
Derwent	6	Marley Hill	6
Eighton Moor	30 to 40	About	180 —

The collieries of the Wear, with the exception of those belonging to the Earl of Durham and the Hetton Company, are about exhausted. At Seaham, the Marquis of Londonderry still keeps up a good supply of coal, and can hold out two or three weeks longer. Both at Sunderland and Seaham, however, the shipment of coal must wholly cease in a short time, if the strike continue.

To-day (Saturday), six pitmen and smiths will be brought before the County Magistrates, at the Goat inn, Gateshead, on a charge of assaulting some pitmen now at work at Mr. Ramsay's colliery, Derwenthaugh. Mr. Roberts, it is expected, will appear for the defendants.

Mr. Roberts attended a great meeting of the colliers of Wigan and the neighbourhood, last week, and is reported in the *Bolton Free Press* to have said:—

He had some intelligence to impart to them from Northumberland and Durham. The men were still out in those districts, and were determined to remain out until they could obtain their demands. He was happy to inform them that there was a *probability*, ALMOST AMOUNTING TO A CERTAINTY, *that the matter would shortly be settled in favour of the men.* One great fact existed: the union had caused the preservation of the peace. *One of their own creation, his Secretary, William Beesley, had kept down any tendency to disturbance.* All had gone on exceedingly well; and everything was safe except one thing, and that was the possibility of violence. Every symptom of anything of that description must be suppressed. It would do no good, but an inconceivable amount of injury. They would lose all sympathy from society—and deservedly. Rather than use violence, they must bear with every oppression. Use violence, and that would ruin their union, their cause, and themselves.

The Northumberland and Durham pitmen, we should think, will hardly thank Mr. Roberts for the compliment which he pays to "his Secretary, William Beesley" at their expense.

The Berwickshire pitmen, it is expected, will cease work at Whitsuntide. The terms proposed by the coalowners are:—3s. 9d. per day of ten hours, with house, garden, coal, and surgical attendance.

The Frith of Forth presented a very animated scene on Saturday morning. Upwards of thirty light colliers were seen [illegible] up to the various coal-ports on the coast, to load coal for the London market. And (what is not a little curious), a large vessel, at the same time, was loading Scottish coal for Newcastle.

The *Staffordshire Advertiser* says:—"There is but little to add this week in reference to the strike of colliers in this district. The turn-out may now be regarded as generally at an end. The men have resumed work, in most instances on the old terms; and even where the new system had been acted upon, the men have very gladly returned to their former prices and hours. Throughout the struggle the turn-outs have conducted themselves, with but few exceptions, in an orderly and peaceable manner."

Earl Fitzwilliam having received from his colliers a very dictatorial proposal, immediately laid in his extensive pits at Elsecar and New Parkgate, to the great consternation of the unionists. A memorial was got up, and numerously signed, the memorialists regretting their conduct; and his lordship at once acceded to their wishes, and reöpened the collieries.

Four of the St. Helen's pitmen were arraigned at Kirkdale sessions, Lancashire, on Saturday, on a charge of riot. The disturbance arose out of a violent attempt to obstruct the employment of Shropshire colliers during a strike. Two barristers appeared for the prosecution, and two for the defence. One of the latter—Mr. Monck—produced an affidavit sworn by Mr. Roberts, attorney for the prisoners, to the effect that his attendance was required in the Court of Queen's Bench, London, on Monday, to give evidence in reference to ten prisoners against whom a *habeas corpus* had been issued. The learned counsel therefore moved the court to postpone the St. Helen's case to Tuesday, otherwise the four prisoners would be deprived of their attorney's services. After a "scene" between Mr. Roberts and one of the counsel employed for the prosecution, it was fixed that the case should be heard on Monday. On that day, the prisoners were convicted on the first count in the indictment, charging them with a riot; and when the verdict had been duly recorded, Mr. Monck moved an arrest of judgment; first, because the verdict was imperfect, the jury having, in the first instance, neither acquitted nor convicted the prisoners on the remaining counts; secondly, because the verdict had been irregularly taken, the omitted questions having been put too late; and thirdly, because the court had no power to try conspiracies. The court respited judgment, that a writ of error might be applied for in the Queen's Bench; with an understanding that the prisoners should appear for sentence at the next sessions, if the promised proceedings were not taken in the meantime.

THE NEWCASTLE TOWN-COUNCIL.

p Sir JOHN FIFE, Mayor.

ALDERMEN.			
p Batson, T. R.	p Ingledew, H.	p Taylor, F.	*St. John.*
Bell, Thomas	p Straker, G.	p Rayne, C.	p Cookson, Wm.
Bigge, C. J.	p Harle, W. L.	*W. All Saints.*	Radford, J.
Brandling, J.	p Robinson, R.	p Ormston, J.	p Plues, Matthew
p Carr, John	p Stokoe, S.	p Parker, A.	Charnley, R.
Donkin, A.	*N. St. Andrew.*	p Sillick, J.	p Brown, William
p Dunn, G. T.	p Archbold, J.	p Carr, J. T.	p Burrell, I.
p Headlam, Dr.	p Philipson, R. P.	p Proctor, W. B.	*Westgate.*
p Hodgson, J.	p Keenlyside, T.	p Hall, Edward	p Hawthorn, R.
p Lamb, Joseph	p Dodds, Ralph	*E. All Saints.*	p Finlay, James
p Losh, James	Blackwell, J.	p Ridley, John	p Bargate, George
p Potter, A. L.	Dunn, Thomas	p Hunter, John	*Jesmond.*
p Nichol, A.	*S. St. Andrew.*	p Lowrey, S.	p Armstrong, W.
COUNCILLORS.	p Weatherley, J. D	p Crawhall, J.	p Plummer, R.
St. Nicholas'.	Gray, A. G.	Shield, Henry	p Turner, Henry
p Nichol, John	p Sanderson, F.	p Turner, Wm.	
	p Jobling, M. L.	[Those marked p were present.]	

THE Council held a quarterly meeting on the 1st of May.—George Mather, one of the inmates of Jesus' Hospital, was elected to the office of governor, *vice* Henzell, deceased; and John Howe, aged 73, was appointed to the vacancy created by Mather's promotion.

The MAYOR laid several communications before the Council. One was from the Lords of the Treasury, declining to make Newcastle a first-class port, on the plea that no other effect would follow from the advancement than a rise of salary to the present officers. (Referred to the Trade and Commerce Committee.) Another communication was from the Messrs. Smith, to the following effect:—

"After giving the Report of Mr. Walker the fullest consideration, we find it impossible to adopt the proposed line of quay laid down by him; and unless that line can be modified, we must give up the idea of building a quay at all. It appears by Mr. Walker's Report that he had provided his line of the proposed quay for commercial purposes and repairs, and with that view he has made it 40 feet within that proposed by the Corporation Engineer. We could not understand this proposal of Mr. Walker, until it was named to us by Mr. John Rayne, the Trinity Master, that it was comtemplated that this space of 40 feet was to allow

Digitized by Google

room for repairing our India ships, being too large to enter any dry dock in the Tyne. From this observation of Mr. Rayne, we consider this must have been suggested to Mr. Walker when at Newcastle. We beg to state that this is not a place in which our ships could be repaired without injury; and we require no exclusive right for such purpose, nor for any other. Our desire is to place all the space up to the quay in the power of the Corporation, with the power of removing ships lying there, as they have of removing ships at the other parts of the river. We wish, as his impression is obviously incorrect, that Mr. Walker be requested to draw such a line as he can advise, under the circumstances we have stated; in case he cannot recommend the adoption of Mr. Brooks's line, on which he does not seem to offer an opinion."

On the motion of Ald. NICHOL, seconded by Mr. PROCTOR, a memorial to the Postmaster-General was adopted, praying the establishment of an evening-mail from Newcastle to London; and that, for the greater convenience of the public, there be a travelling-postoffice in connection with the mail.

Three of Sir Thomas White's loans were awarded:—viz., to W. C. Forster, Nuns-street, T. R. Forster, Westgate House, and Anderson Tyzack, Claremont-place. Ald. DUNN announced that there was another loan in hand.

On the motion of Mr. PLUMMER, the Council permitted the withdrawal of the Report of the Trade and Commerce Committee, respecting the erection of sheds on the quay, that the proposed plan might be amended.

Ald. DUNN stated that the thorough toll, which had fallen off to the extent of £400 per year, had recovered itself, in the past year, to the extent of £200. Mr. Dunn presented a Report from Mr. F. Sinton, keeper of the cattle-market, as follows:—

"The Second Annual Report of the Cattle Market showeth an increase of 2,712 head of cattle, and of 24,571 sheep and lambs, but a decrease of 1,515 swine, as compared with last year. Although the numbers of swine are not so large as in the former Report, there has been considerably more business done in that description of stock. I take the numbers of stock without reference as to whether they have been previously shown or not; consequently on the new tariff of the Right Hon. Sir R. Peel coming into operation, it had its influence on all kinds of stock, but more particularly this, and pigs of all kinds were a complete drug, both in the Tuesday and Saturday's markets, and in many instances the same lots were shown three or four market-days before sales could be effected. But confidence having been restored in the agricultural districts, the numbers in the present Report have not only been shown, but have actually changed hands on each market day. I beg to state to your honourable body, that for the last ten months there has been a decided improvement in the quality of stock. About June, 1843, the market took up a position which, to all appearance at present, it will maintain. Our supplies in former years at this season were very small and of middling quality, principally by the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway, from Cumberland; but at present we have large weekly supplies direct from some of the best feeding districts in the kingdom. There is also a corresponding demand. The butchers south of the Tyne were the principal supporters of the market; but now, owing to the quantity and quality of the stock, it has induced the very most of our town's butchers and those in the neighbourhood to attend. There is also a sprinkling of south-country business, which I have no doubt will be much extended by the completion of the Darlington Junction Railway. The following numbers are strictly correct, having carefully counted them myself on the morning of each day; and the cattle sold on the Monday for the south-country markets, I have obtained the numbers from the dealer who sold them." [Total number of beasts, 8,684; sheep and lambs, 141,561; swine, 10,845.]

Business of a miscellaneous and routine character was transacted.—Mr. CRAWHALL withdrew, for the present, his motion for the adoption and confirmation of Mr. Walker's Report.—The motion of Mr. C. RAYNE, to restrain the Engineer from undertaking professional engagements unconnected with the Corporation, was set aside by an amendment moved by Mr. HARLE, to the effect that the duties of the Engineer be defined by the Finance and River Committees.—A motion made by Mr. HARLE, and seconded by Mr. STOKOE, for the establishment of a July wool-fair in Newcastle, was carried by a large majority.—Adjourned to June 12.

NEWCASTLE AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY BILL.—The Report of the Committee (Mr. Greene, Mr. Bowes, Hon. H. T. Liddell, and Mr. Hodgson Hinde,) has been presented to the House, and printed. They state that the bill being for the purpose of enabling the company to purchase the Durham Junction Railway, and to make a station at Gateshead, with a bridge and approaches thereto, it did not appear to the committee that any of the matters required by the standing orders to be inquired into by committees on railway-bills applied to the present bill, except the 21st; and that the number of parties assenting, dissenting, and neuter, with the length and amount of their respective properties, required to be taken for the purpose of the proposed station, and the approaches thereto, was as follows:—

No.	Description.	Length.	Contents.		
	Owners.	YARDS.	A.	R.	P.
5	Assents	40	0	0	26
1	Dissent	18	0	0	12
5	Neuters	294	2	1	29
16	No answer received	176	1	1	33
27		528	4	0	20
	Lessees.				
8	No answer received	88	0	2	37
	Occupiers.				
3	Assents	20	0	1	0
2	Dissents	40	0	0	24
1	Neuter	20	0	0	13
54	No answer received	448	3	2	23
60		528	4	0	20

They further reported that they had examined the allegations of the bill, and found the same to be true; and had gone through the bill, and made several amendments thereto.

PONTOP AND SOUTH SHIELDS RAILWAY BILL.—The Report of the Committee has been printed with the votes. They report that they had examined the several matters required by the standing orders to be inquired into by committees on railway bills, and were of opinion that, inasmuch as the object of the bill is merely to widen a portion of an existing line of railway, and to make a more convenient junction than at present with the Brandling Junction Railway, by means of a short branch of 836 yards in length, it did not appear that the first eleven resolutions of the house were applicable to the proposed widening of the main line of railway, nor that the first thirteen, or the sixteenth and twentieth, were applicable to the new branch. That there are no planes upon the branch railway proposed to be worked by assistant engines, stationary or locomotive; that there are no peculiar engineering difficulties; that there are no tunnels; that the gradients and curves are favourable. The steepest gradient is 1 in 211, and the smallest radius of a curve 18 chains. The length of the branch is 836 yards. It is not intended to cross any turnpike-road or public highway, on the level or otherwise. The estimated expense of the works proposed by the bill is £16,000, which appeared to be supported by the evidence, and to be adequate to the purpose; and the Company have funds in hand amply sufficient to defray such expenses. It also appeared that the Company have a present surplus revenue fully adequate to meet any increase in the annual expenses occasioned by the construction of the new works, and still to allow a profit to the proprietors. That the following is the number of owners and occupiers, assenting, dissenting, and neuter, and the length and amount of each class traversed by the proposed new works:—

No.	Description.	Length.		Quantities.		
	Owners.	MILES.	YARDS.	A.	R.	P.
10	Assents	0	770	0	2	21
2	Dissents	0	0	0	0	0
2	Neuters	0	198	0	0	29
39	No answers received	4	1342	10	2	36
53		5	550	11	2	6
	Lessees.					
5	Assents	0	858	1	2	3
7	Dissents	0	22	0	0	3
6	No answers received	0	44	0	0	37
18		0	924	1	3	13
	Occupiers.					
13	Assents	2	572	3	3	17
5	Dissents	0	22	0	0	3
1	Special answer	0	264	1	2	12
22	No answers received	2	1452	6	0	14
41		5	550	11	2	6

They further reported that they had examined the allegations of the bill, and found the same to be true; and had gone through the bill, and made several amendments thereto.

Digitized by Google

COLLIERS' STRIKE.

(From the *Gateshead Observer*, May 11, 1844.)

THE pitmen, since our last, have received a fresh stimulus in their strike from the various sums subscribed to their relief fund; amongst which may be named £20, contributed by the quarrymen of Gateshead. However, we regret to learn that the pitmen in certain instances are breaking up their sick societies, and dividing those hard-earned funds which they had wisely provided for days of affliction and death.—*Tyne Mercury.*

Notwithstanding the "strike," there were more ships at the London market on the 1st of May than on the 5th of April! The prices, too, were lower on the former than on the latter day. So much for the notion that London cannot be supplied with coal, unless with the aid of this district.

There have been several meetings of pitmen this week, one or two of which are reported in our paper. When we think of the privations which the pitmen must now be enduring, we are surprised, not that some slight interruptions of the peace have occurred, but that they have not been more general.

William Oswald, of Fawdon-square, pitman, was on Monday convicted at the Moothall, Newcastle, of an assault on a person employed at Fawdon colliery. The offence arose out of attempts to intimidate "black legs" from working in the room of unionists. The defendant was fined £5 (including costs), and, in default of payment, committed to Morpeth house of correction for two months.

William Barber, of Thornley, pitman, was on Tuesday brought before the magistrates in Durham, dressed in woman's clothes, *a la Rebecca!* The prisoner, at the head of 40 or 50 men and women, had endeavoured to intimidate Joseph Clough and others from working in the service of the Thornley Coal Company. The bench sentenced him to a month's imprisonment.

John Tate, John Liddell, John Coxon, and George Harding, of Thornley, pitmen, charged with assaulting excavators in search of colliery-employment, were on Wednesday committed for trial at the sessions.

Under the head "Court of Queen's Bench, April 30th," a London paper reports the *ex parte* case of "Tordolf and Others," as follows:—"The parties in this case are colliers in the north of England, who were committed by the magistrates for neglecting their work. They applied for a *habeas corpus*, the return to which was argued yesterday. During the course of the argument, Mr. Bodkin contended, on the part of the prisoners, that the conviction was bad, because it did not set forth that the evidence had been taken in the prisoner's presence; and the Court reserved its judgment. The judgment of the Court was delivered this morning; which was, that the conviction was bad on the grounds stated, and that the prisoners must therefore be discharged." What bungling work!

The St. Helen's strike may now be considered as completely at an end. In the course of the past week, such of the turn-outs as would be received back into their former employment were allowed the opportunity of resuming their work, on condition that they would, like those who had previously gone in, sign contracts. We believe that all the pits have now their full complement of hands; and the general trade of the town is slowly recovering from the shock which it sustained by the strike.—*Liverpool Times.*

ASSAULT ON A "BLACK LEG."

THE Blaydon Main colliery-case did not come on, at the Goat inn, Gateshead, on Saturday last. Summonses having been issued against John Kendal, shoemaker, William Acham and George Marshall, pitmen, Hannah Smith, pitman's wife, and Robert Parker and Henry Atkinson, smiths, it was expected that they would appear at the petty sessions, but they failed to do so. Warrants were therefore granted for their apprehension.

On Wednesday, several of the parties having been apprehended, John Kendal was placed before J. W. Williamson, Esq., Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., and Ralph Carr, Esq., G. H. Ramsay, Esq., was also present, but took no part in the case as a magistrate: he appeared as complainant, with Mr. W. L. Harle as his solicitor.

Adam Dixon, the first witness examined, deposed that he had worked for Mr. Ramsay for the last fifteen months. On the 5th of April last, the "binding" having expired, he was reëngaged. On Wednesday, the 1st of May, when leaving work for Winlaton, where he resided, a crowd of about 200 persons were collected together near the pit. They followed him, hooting, and calling him "black-leg." As he was entering his house, a stone struck him between the shoulders. Some one said that if he got into the house he should never more come out. They made a great noise, by beating pans and kettles with sticks. Had not since returned to work, in consequence of the threats and violence used. Was quite willing to return to work, if he could do so safely. Saw Kendal there, but did not hear him say anything. Thought the crowd had increased to near 500 before he reached home.

Edward Robson, of the county police, deposed that he saw Dixon leave the pit. The crowd followed him home, calling him "black-leg," and threatened to kill him if he returned to work. Saw Kendal throw a stone, which hit Dixon on the back, just as he was going into the house.

Kendal, on being asked what he had to say, replied that he did not deny throwing the stone, but it was not intended to hit Dixon.

John Marshall, pitman, and Robert Parker and Henry Atkinson, smiths, were next placed at the bar, charged with using means to intimidate Dixon, so as to cause him to leave his work. The witnesses and evidence were the same as against Kendal. P.C. Robson and W. Buglass identified all the three prisoners as taking part in the outrage.

Mr. Williamson addressed the prisoners at some length, explaining the law of the case. Any persons (said he), joining in a crowd for the purpose of intimidating another from following his lawful employment, if even they took no part in the proceedings of the crowd, were equally as culpable, in the eye of the law, as the worst person there. He wished this to be particularly made known in the colliery districts, for a contrary impression seemed to have been spread abroad by certain parties, which was very much calculated to mislead. Every man had a right to cease work, if he thought fit to do so; but he had no right to prevent another man from selling his labour to the best advantage; and the law had provided for this, in making persons liable to punishment for assembling together, or in any way seeking to prevent any one from following his lawful employment. The prisoner Kendal had taken part in getting up a disturbance in a quarrel with which he had nothing whatever to do; and having thrown a stone at Dixon, the Bench had decided upon committing him to Durham gaol for two months' hard labour. Marshall, Parker, and Atkinson, to be committed to gaol for one month.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GATESHEAD OBSERVER.

SIR,—We have seen an article in your paper, which goes to say that there are 35 coal-hewers at Percy Main colliery, and they are sending to bank 21 score per day. This we flatly deny, for there are only two regular coal-hewers at work at present, namely, Joseph Reed and James English. The others consist of 8 deputies, 5 wastemen, 5 banksmen, 4 men that work in the rolley-way, 2 master-men shifters, a master-sinker, and a few off-handed men and boys. These are Mr. John Oliver's coal-hewers.

This is a statement of what coals they are sending to bank at present:—For 4 days, 58 score; the average being 14 score and 10 corves per day.

As the masters are by all possible means, by having recourse to the Press, determined to destroy our welfare and break up our union, you will greatly oblige us to record the above in your paper.

We are, Sir, for the Percy Main Committee,
Your obedient Servants,
JOHN JUDE, Secretary.
Percy Main, May 6, 1844. JOHN DOBINSON.

MEETING OF DELEGATES.

ON Tuesday, a meeting of the delegates of the Pitmen's Union took place at Martin Jude's public house, in the Manors, Newcastle. There was a long discussion before it was agreed that reporters should be admitted, but a motion to that effect was ultimately carried in the affirmative. On our entrance, MARK DENT, who was in the chair, rose, and animadverted on the views entertained by the press of this district with respect to the claims of the pitmen. He said many of the things stated were lies.

Mr. ROBERTS, the pitmen's legal adviser, rose and said that

Digitized by Google

the pitmen attached too much importance to the influence of the local press, and acquitted reporters generally of wilful misrepresentation. He said he had had considerable experience in connection with newspapers; and the fact was, that however fair the report might be as it came from the hands of the reporter, the editor subsequently altered and garbled it so as to give it quite a different meaning.

On hearing this statement, the reporters present naturally felt that an insult was cast upon their profession; and accordingly, on the reassembling of the delegates after dinner, they took the opportunity of jointly and severally denying the allegation, so far as their experience and observation enabled them to do so.

[We know not in connection with what newspapers Mr. Roberts has had his "experience;" but, we are happy to say, our own "experience" has been of a totally opposite character. We have never met with an editor who would offer, or a reporter who would brook, the dishonest interference which Mr. Roberts affirms to be so prevalent. We are aware of a proposal of the kind having been made by a newspaper-proprietor, and resisted by his servant, to the pecuniary loss of the latter. Editors and reporters are like other men—liable to prejudice and bias in the discharge of their important duties. That they are the corrupt, unprincipled knaves, Mr. Roberts would have his followers to believe, we contemptuously deny.—Ed. G. O.]

Mr. Roberts proceeded to state his views with respect to the strike. He said public opinion as yet was in a state of doubt; but when public opinion was fully enlightened, then the masters would give way. It was a trial, as one of the Wingate men had said, between the long purses of the owners and the "hungry guts" of the pitmen; but if the pitmen continued to display the same determination as they had heretofore done, they were sure to conquer.

A variety of resolutions, contained in a written programme, were in the course of the day submitted from the chair, and discussed with great acuteness. The first resolution adopted by the meeting was for the appointment of six additional members of the committee appointed to meet the committee of coalowners, in order that the numbers in the two committees might be equalized.

Previous to this motion being put,

Mr. Roberts said he had thought that the masters might possibly have something to say, which, however, they might not like directly to communicate to the pitmen. He, therefore, without wishing to make any apparent concession, sent his clerk to the masters to say that he would be happy to meet them. The masters, however, stated that they did not see how any good could arise from the interview; but said, that they were quite willing that each individual colliery should meet its master. He (Mr. R.) did not know that anything arose out of this fact. He merely threw it out for their consideration; but it seemed indicative that the masters were as firm as themselves, and that no conclusion would be come to until the coals were gone.

The next motion was the appointment of William Richardson to be assistant-secretary.

Previous to the adjournment for dinner, Christopher Haswell and William Mitchell were appointed a deputation to apply at the Coal Trade Office, with a letter signed by the Chairman, stating their willingness to meet the Coalowners' Committee.

After dinner, the deputation stated that they went to the Coal Trade Office, but the Committee were not there, and, they supposed, would not be in Newcastle till Saturday; and the same deputation were appointed to wait on the Coalowners' Committee on that day.

A resolution was passed for the appointment of three public meetings of the pitmen, one for the Tyne, one for the Wear, and one for the Tees. The first, for the Wear, to be held on Saturday, May 11, at 12 o'clock, at Pittington: the second for the Tyne, on Monday next, at 12 o'clock, on the Town Moor, if leave can be obtained. The time and place for holding the third meeting was not fixed.

The next resolution in the programme was, "That the meeting take into consideration the best method of collecting subscriptions and donations from the different trades and shopkeepers." This motion gave many of the delegates an opportunity for stating they were provisioned for a strike, if necessary, for some months to come. One delegate (we understood from Seghill) intimated that it would be better that the strike were brought to a close soon, and said he believed the collieries would go to work for less than they asked, but there appeared to be a unanimous feeling against him.

It was then resolved, that the collieries belonging the districts near Newcastle and Gateshead, namely, North Elswick, Wrekenton, and Fawdon, meet together to devise the best means to get support from the trades in Newcastle and elsewhere.

After some minor matters had been disposed of, it was announced that Mr. Matthias Dunn wished to be admitted into the room, to make some statements to the delegates relative to what had appeared respecting him in the last number of the *Miners' Advocate*. Mr. Dunn was accordingly admitted, and, after expressing the most friendly feeling towards the delegates and pitmen generally, read a copy of the following letter, which we have great pleasure in inserting:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEWCASTLE ADVERTISER.

Sir,—A paragraph having appeared in the last number of the *Miners' Advocate*, from a correspondent, reflecting upon the character of Mr. Matthias Dunn, by stating that he had been in Wales endeavouring to obtain men to supplant the miners of Northumberland and Durham now off work, and Mr. Dunn having waited upon us at the Miners' Executive Rooms, and solemnly stated that such paragraph was not true, consequently we consider it only an act of duty to publish this statement to set right the public mind, and do justice to Mr. Dunn.

We are, Sir, yours,
On behalf of the Miners' Executive Committee,
John Hall, Gen. Sec.
John Stoker.

Mr. Dunn having retired, a discussion arose as to the report which had been promised in the *Miners' Advocate*, in answer to the report of the coalowners published in last week's newspapers. Many of the delegates said that no notice had been sent to them on the subject, and consequently they had not come prepared with statistical information sufficient to rebut the statements of the coalowners. It was then resolved that the delegates of the several collieries ascertain the average of the prices paid the pitmen for hewing, putting, and driving, in 1842 and 1843, and the prices they asked for 1844, and that they send in a statement to that effect to Newcastle as speedily as possible. It was also resolved, that those collieries which have stopped work and joined the union since the strike, be admitted to the same privileges as the other members.

After some other business of minor interest was disposed of, the meeting broke up.—*Newcastle Advertiser.*

PUBLIC MEETING.

On Tuesday evening, a public meeting was held in the Lecture Room, Nelson-street, pursuant to a handbill headed "Who are to blame for the present strike of the pitmen?" and stating that the grievances of the pitmen would be discussed. The place of meeting was crowded. Many respectable inhabitants of Newcastle were present, together with coalowners, viewers, and a large number of pitmen, (Mark Dent, of New Durham, in the chair.) The Chairman stated that in 1843, the wages of the pitmen were reduced; and it might be asked, why did the pitmen give in to the reduction? why did they sign the bond? The fact was there was a want of union among the men: they had entered into a foolish competition against each other. But now he was happy to say they were united. He then called upon

Mr. Thomas Clough, of Thornley, who entered into a lengthened statement of the grievances laboured under by colliers, and which, he said, had ultimately led to the present strike. The pitmen, he stated, never wished to see the strike take place. It had been said that the owners could not comply with the workmen's demands; but could they not have formed a committee before the strike as well as after it? The workmen had appointed a committee, who had asked for an interview with the coalowners, which had been refused:—why he could not tell. The men knew they could not make a livelihood under the terms proposed by the masters in their monthly agreement. During the past year pitmen could merely eke out a miserable existence. It had been stated by the masters that 3s. 8d. per day could be earned in eight hours, under last year's prices. This he owned was quite a sufficient sum, and wished they could get it: if so, it would have been utterly impossible to have brought the union to its present magnitude, or, indeed, to have brought it into existence at all. In the colliery the speaker worked at, the average only amounted to

Digitized by Google

2s. 10d. per day, before the restrictive system was adopted. He had seen it stated in the newspapers, that, previous to the bindings, the masters and men consulted together as to the terms of the proposed agreement. He never knew an instance of such a consultation. It had also been stated that, owing to the depression of trade, the masters could not afford to pay the prices demanded. Now what was the difference of price in the London market, between 1841 and the present time: the difference was just sixpence per ton. The want of proper ventilation was also the cause of great dissatisfaction; and when calamities occurred which might easily have been prevented, a packed jury shielded the masters from the consequences of their neglect. Some mines were more easily ventilated than others, but there was generally a desire on the part of the masters to save expense, which led to many disasters. He had worked in a place where, owing to the foulness of the air, he had been obliged to be carried home, with a head fit to split with pain, and from its effects he was confined to bed for three days; whereas, to bring a healthy atmosphere into the place where he was working, would not have cost the owner more than 10s.; and if he (Clough) had not gone back to work, he would have been fined 2s. 6d. per day. He was therefore obliged to return to the same place day after day, until it had the effect of laying him off work for fifteen weeks, during a great portion of which time he was insensible. He then went to Durham to commence an action against the masters for an allowance of five shillings per week, which the men can claim when laid off work through the effects of injuries received whilst working in the pits, but found that, although a broken leg was provided for, there was no provision against poisoning a man by foul air, and he could receive no redress. They wanted a voice in the making of the bond. He wished every man to entertain a proper degree of respect towards his master, but at the same time to insist upon having his rights. He had been confined three months in gaol for breaking one of the clauses of a bond, the provisions of which he was not aware of.

Mr. John Tulip, of South Hetton, was next introduced by the Chairman. He stated that the great progress which the Miners' Association had made, during the past year, was entirely owing to the large reduction made in their prices during the last year. Pitmen generally were not lazy men. They were as willing to work as any set of men who trod the ground. They were always working on the verge of death and eternity, and yet they were quite willing to work for a fair remuneration. The restrictive system had not been adopted by them until the 5th of April, 1843, and then solely on account of the masters stating that they could not employ the whole of the miners, there being at that time many hundreds out of employment. The unionists then met together, and agreed to restrict themselves to a certain quantity of work, and thus give work to the whole. They had not restricted the masters injuriously, as could be proved by the quantity of coals at present being carried down the railways. More coals were sent to London during the last three months than during the corresponding three months of 1843. The restrictive system had the effect of causing some of the collieries to work 34 days longer during last year than they did during the year preceding, thus benefitting men who had a family of boys. Had they not adopted the restrictive system, the parishes must have kept the unemployed. They considered the amounts guaranteed a grievance also. The amounts guaranteed in different collieries varied from 26s. down to 22s. per fortnight. In 1843 the guarantee was generally 30s., but he was sorry to say they had been gradually going back since that time. The amount guaranteed was averaged upon the total amount of the earnings of all the men in the colliery; so that one man might be earning £2 while another might make 10s.; and sometimes the average was struck upon the amount of three or four fortnights' earnings taken together. The men considered a certain sum should be guaranteed week by week. Then as to what was termed "set-out." If a tub was sent to bank some 5lb or 6lb deficient in weight, they considered it unreasonable that the whole should be forfeited. There were also many fraudulent weighing machines or steelyards employed, some of them giving as far as 120lb to the cwt., which was more than was to be found in the arithmetics. The simplest contrivances ought to be adopted. If the men wished to have a weighing machine inspected, they must give three days' notice to the masters; so that if anything fraudulent had really been practised, there was surely sufficient time allowed to get it rectified. Then as to what was termed "laid-out." A fine was inflicted of one penny for every pound weight of stone, if 6lb be found in one tub: in other collieries it was 9d. for three quarts, and in some instances heavier. The men thought this unreasonable also; for with the very small light used in the pits, and what was called "ramble" continually falling from the roof, it was quite impossible to prevent a small quantity of stone getting in amongst the coal. Some better regulation ought to be adopted. Then as to "splint and foul coal." In some mines it lay at the bottom, and in others in the middle of the seam. The fines in this case varied according to circumstances. He had known instances as high as 10s., and he believed there were cases of still higher fines being inflicted. Then in separating round from small coal there were fines again. It was in many instances impossible to avoid being fined in this case, for a man might be working a mile or two from the shaft, and did not know how his coals might be knocked about before they reached the pit mouth. In some cases, were he to fill the tubs by hand, coals would work against each other, and make more than the quantity allowed, and for which they would be fined. He wished masters to be protected against unreasonable men, but the system was too severe. They wished also to have weekly payments.

Mr. Mitchell, of South Hetton, was now introduced by the Chairman, and spoke at considerable length. The men, he said, were quite prepared to come to terms with the masters. Two of them had been to the coal-trade office that day, but the masters were not sitting at the time; but the deputation would wait upon them again on Saturday, and try to come to some arrangement. He thought a monthly agreement was unsuited to their line of business; for, if they were obliged to move monthly, the little furniture they were possessed of would soon go to pieces; and if subject to a month's notice, they would be afraid to speak their minds. The men were anxious to come to terms with the masters; but if they would not do so, the men had struck one month, and would strike another, if nothing better could be done. (A cry of "A year!") They were losing their labour, which was their capital; and the masters were losing theirs also. Some of the mines were going to wreck—the engines required to be kept up, and, he believed, overmen's wages had to be paid. Then, again, if masters and men had been properly united, they could have swamped the coal duty before now. A great deal had been said about the men demanding 10s. per week smart money. This had been thought an extravagant demand; but it was not intended that the masters should have it to pay—it was meant solely as an inducement for masters to ventilate their mines properly, use better timber, and exercise more care to prevent accidents generally, so that the men should not work in continual jeopardy. Were proper care exercised, with more competent viewers and overmen, the smart money would not be so often called for. The masters ought to be protected against imposition; but if the mines were properly ventilated, better lights could be used, and thus splint and foul coal would not be so often complained of. The men had no hostility against the masters: all they wanted was fair remuneration for their toil. It had been said that the men would break the peace. What! break the peace to obtain their rights! He would sooner lay down his life than break the peace, and he hoped all miners would do the same.

Mr. James Forest, a mechanic, proposed a resolution expressive of an opinion that the miners were justified in their present "strike," and pledging the meeting to support them during the struggle.

This was seconded by a person who styled himself "A Member of the Organized Body of Tailors," and was carried unanimously.

A Chartist leader next rose to propose an address to Mr. Ferrand, which had the effect of clearing the room to a considerable extent, and the Chairman very properly refused to put the motion to the meeting. The proceedings were then brought to a close.

THE GATESHEAD TOWN COUNCIL.

The Council met on Wednesday, May 8, at noon.—The Watch Committee made a Report, from which it appeared that the owners of Team colliery had applied for the services of the police, to protect their workmen from the Unionists "on strike;" and the request having been granted, the Committee had been obliged to refuse a similar application from the owners of

Digitized by Google

Edmondsley colliery. At the Team colliery, the police were not now needed. [But the Mayor stated, that the police had that morning been instructed to proceed to the colliery at Gateshead Park.] The Watch Committee added, that Government had ordered the restitution of the arms some time ago lent to the borough, but had consented to the retention of them six months longer, in consideration of the "strike."—Report received and adopted.

The Lighting Committee presented a Report, stating that the borough had been lighted several days beyond the contract-term, and was still partially lighted, on account of the disturbed state of the district. Mr. Joshua Watson had been fined 2s. 6d. for obstructing the extension of the gas-pipes.—Report received and adopted.

Mr. POTTS presented a Report from the Corporation Quay Committee. Messrs. Haggie & Co. and Messrs. W. Hymers & Co. still neglected to account with the Council for quay-dues; and the Brandling Junction Directors had given the Corporation six months' notice to quit the quay; which notice was legal under the contract, if the quay were required for railway purposes—a point to which the Directors made no allusion.

On the motion of Mr. JOSEPH ROBSON, seconded by Mr. EDWARD, the Town Clerk was instructed to take legal proceedings against Messrs. Haggie and Messrs. Hymers, first giving them notice of his intention to do so.

As to the "notice to quit," which was suspected to be a set-off for the "indictment," the Council seemed glad of the communication; and Mr. Ald. BROCKETT having moved that the notice be accepted, (with an intimation, however, that it was not binding on the Council,) Mr. ROBSON seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.

Mr. Ald. POLLOCK presented a Report from the Finance Committee; which, like an epigram, had a "sting in its tail;" for it concluded by recommending the laying of a borough-rate of one penny in the pound.—The recommendation was confirmed.

Mr. REVELY presented a Report from the Town Improvement Committee. Permission, they stated, had been granted to certain parties, to expose goods for sale in front of their premises, under stipulated conditions.

Mr. EDWARD called attention to the disregard of the bye-laws, in this respect, exhibited in the lower part of the borough; and the Town Clerk was directed to put a stop to all unlicensed exposures of goods.

The TOWN CLERK read Mr. Baines's reply to the inquiry addressed to him a month or so ago. The learned gentleman stated, as to tenement houses, that, failing the receipt of the street-act assessment from the tenant, the landlord was liable, not merely for a moiety of the rate, but for the whole.

Mr. REVELY presented the following

"REPORT *of the* COMMITTEE *appointed on the 3d of April, 1844, to inquire into, and make a Report upon, certain* ENCROACHMENTS *and* ALTERATIONS *of moment, which are stated to have been made of late on the* PUBLIC FOOTPATHS *on the* WINDMILL HILLS.

"Your Committee report that, on the 20th ult., they proceeded to the Windmill Hills, and carefully examined the directions of the ancient as well as present roads and footpaths over the same; and find—

"1. That an ancient footpath, commencing opposite the south-west corner of Barn Close, at the point opposite the Mulgrave Arms, near the end of Pollock-street, and proceeding in a south-westerly direction to the Hexham turnpike-road, near the entrance to Mr. William Gibbon's house, is obstructed and diverted by the rubbish from a quarry thrown, and stone-walls recently erected, on the line of the footpath; and that another footpath, branching from that last-mentioned, near the north-eastern end thereof, and leading in a north-westerly direction to the river, is also obstructed by a stone-wall.

"2. That the line of an ancient footpath from Robson's Cottage, at the north-east corner of the Windmill Hills, opposite Mulgrave-terrace, leading past Boggon's Mill to Union-lane, has been obstructed by a stone-wall; and a new footpath has been formed further north, in order to be substituted; and a branch of the same ancient footpath, leading south-westerly to the Hexham turnpike-road, opposite Mr. Gibbon's house, has been also stopped by stone-walls erected across it.

"3. That an ancient footpath from Hood's Buildings and Mill, running south-easterly towards the Hexham turnpike-road, opposite Mr. Gibbon's house, has been stopped by stone-walls erected across it.

"4. That an ancient road and footpath, leading from the old Borough toll-bar north-westerly towards the river and the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway station, has also been cut up by a quarry, and rendered impassable.

"Your Committee have also to report that, in consequence of the stoppages of the roads and footpaths before-mentioned, the public are compelled to travel over a greater distance than formerly.

"In order to shew the former and present state of the roads more distinctly, your Committee have procured a plan, showing the direction of the ancient footpaths, and the obstructions which have been made thereto; which is presented herewith. And they also subjoin to this Report a statement of the lengths of the ancient footpaths, and of the increased lengths of the present ones; such statement of distances being made upon the authority of Mr. Samuel Ledger, who has prepared the plan from actual survey "THOMAS REVELY, Chairman.

"Townhall, Gateshead, May 7th, 1844.

"*Lengths of the Ancient and Present Roads.*

"In the case of No. 1, from the road opposite to the Mulgrave Arms to the Hexham turnpike-road, opposite to Mr. Gibbon's gates, by the old road 891 feet, and by the new road 1,017, being an increase of 126.

"In the case of No. 2, from Robson's Cottage to the Hexham turnpike-road, opposite Union-lane, by the old road 1,547 feet, and by the new road 1,572, being an increase of 25; and from Robson's Cottage to the turnpike opposite to Mr. Gibbon's gates, by the old road 1,165 feet, and by the new road 1,300, being an increase of 135.

"In the case of No. 3, from Hood's Mill to Gibbon's gates, by the old road 445 feet, and by the new road 483, being an increase of 38.

"In the case of No. 4, from G. to H. on the plan, the new road is 43 feet longer than the old one."

The Report having been received, Mr. Ald. BROCKETT observed, that so important a document ought not to be simply laid upon the table, and forgotten. They had just learned that a fine of 2s. 6d. had been imposed upon Mr. Joshua Watson, for interfering with a footpath. Certain parties had been proceeded against for obstructing roads on Gateshead Fell. The Brandling Junction Railway Company had been indicted for causing a nuisance in the public streets. Whenever, in short, the rights of the public had been tampered with, the Council had always stood forward to resist and put down the encroachment. He could not, therefore, anticipate any other course on the present occasion, and felt that it would not be necessary to say one single word in support of the resolution which he had risen to propose. It was as follows:—

That as it is the duty of this Council to protect and maintain the right of the public to every ancient footpath and road within this borough, it be an instruction to the Committee, whose Report has just been received, to take such steps as they may deem most expedient for removing the several obstructions to public roads and footpaths specified in the Report.

He had no wish to bring forward this resolution in any other than good feeling. It was on public grounds alone that he submitted it to the Council; and he was sure it would be entertained, and disposed of, in the same spirit, and without regard to private interests. Therefore, anticipating no hostility, he would not detain the Council by any statement of facts or arguments in favour of the resolution, but would move at once that it be adopted.

Mr. REVELY seconded the motion, and stated, that one of the Stewards of the Borough Property, in reply to a complaint about their obstructions, said, "You may go round about. We have a majority of the Justices, a majority of the Council, and a majority of the Boroughholders, and we don't care for you." He (Mr. Revely) trusted that the proceedings of this day would correct the worthy Steward's mistake. The Council would vindicate themselves from the imputation that they had taken office, not to serve the public, but to promote paltry private interests. He (Mr. Revely) was so fully convinced of the illegality of the obstructions referred to in the Report, that he would himself have pulled them down, and risked the consequences; but after what the Steward had so unblushingly stated, he was anxious to have his assertion disproved by a vote of the Council.

The MAYOR put the resolution to a show of hands, and declared it to be carried unanimously.

[Mr. Thomas Glaholm was admitted to an interview with the Council, and complained that property went unlet at the upper end of Mulgrave-terrace, in consequence of the *well*-behaviour of the women assembling at the fount in front of the windows, and which he was therefore anxious to have removed.—The Council, however, gave him no reason to hope for such a change. But Mr. Revely stated that a reservoir, holding 1,200 gallons of water, would shortly be erected at the spring, so that the ladies would not have to wait for a supply, as at present, and the annoyance would thus be partially amended. It was also referred to the Town Improvement Committee to inquire into the best means of increasing the supply of water in Greene's Field, and at other places in the borough.]

The MAYOR laid before the Council a letter from Mr. Joseph Price, complaining of a nuisance in the public streets, created

Digitized by Google

by the carting away, in the day-time, of foul-smelling refuse from the glue-works of Mr. Prockter and Mr. Wardman, in Pipewellgate. His Worship and other members of the Council bore testimony to the foulness of the odour; and the Town Clerk was instructed to apprize the parties, and also the authors of other Pipewellgate nuisances, that unless they were abated, the bye-laws would be enforced.

The Council adjourned to the 5th of June.

Mr. M. Dunn and Mr. James Ryan.—Mr. Matthias Dunn, in an essay on "Colliery Engineering," read before the Newcastle Mechanics' Institute, and afterwards published in our journal, made use of the following words:—

"In the year 1815, Mr. James Ryan appeared in this country, under the pretext of preventing accidents, by exhausting the gas by chemical and mechanical processes; and although, in the opinion of practical viewers, his schemes were entirely visionary, yet, to satisfy the public mind, Messrs. Buddle & Hill, and the Rev. Mr. Hodgson, were sent to Staffordshire, to report upon his system; and their report was entirely condemnatory of his views and propositions. His printed projects seem also to have found their way to Belgium; where, because of being less tested, they have found a much more important place in their mining annals."

A letter was addressed to us at the time, by one of Mr. Ryan's friends, in reply to Mr. Dunn's observations; and, of course, we gave the letter a place in our columns. We have now before us a handbill, printed at Dudley, in which attention is called to the above extract by Mr. Ryan, (who very loosely, and in a manner calculated to mislead, describes it as part of "an article reflecting on his professional character as a director of coal-mines, in the *Gateshead Observer*.") He then gives a declaration, signed by the vicar of Dudley and nine other clergymen, two Wesleyan ministers, two churchwardens, four magistrates, a coroner, a vice-chairman of a board of guardians, eleven mining engineers and surveyors, twenty coal and iron masters, ten surgeons, two chemists, the secretary to the coal-trade, and other persons. It is in the following words:—

"We, the undersigned inhabitants of Dudley and its vicinity, having perused the above extract, feel it a duty we owe to the cause of justice and humanity, to state that such report is not founded on fact, as far as regards this district; and that the effects of the plans adopted by Mr. J. Ryan for the preservation of life and the prevention of explosions in coal-mines, which occurred daily here previous to his appearance in 1808, have been ever since, and now are, beneficial to the fullest extent of the purpose for which they were adopted."

The handbill includes also a certificate given to Mr. Ryan in 1809, dated "Dudley, Jan. 1," and signed by "Samuel Fereday," "Richard Smith," and "Charles Norton," a committee of investigation appointed by Lord Dudley and Ward. It is as follows:—

"We, the undersigned, having, at the request of the Hon. Washington Shirley, witnessed an experiment made by Mr. James Ryan, for the purpose of destroying the inflammable gas contained in Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward's Netherton colliery, are of opinion that it answered the fullest extent of the purpose for which it was intended.

"Having seen a large square of work, containing pot-holes, which had been considered extremely dangerous, freed from this pernicious species of air, by a small portion of the means he had to effect it, we do not hesitate to say it is an invention of the first importance to this country, since the numerous victims of its baneful influence are a daily shock to humanity, and a dreadful impediment to the acquisition of valuable mines."

The Half Moon Inn, Gateshead.—Miss Murray's accession to the management of this old and comfortable inn, so long and well conducted by her late much-respected mother, Mrs. Calvert, was celebrated on Tuesday, May 7th, by a "Welcome Dinner." Many have been the festive meetings held within its walls; but never, perhaps, has the Half Moon inn been honoured, at one and the same time, by the assemblage of so large a proportion of our foremost citizens, as on the present occasion. To look round the room, and see so numerous a gathering of our municipal representatives, we might have supposed that it was a "Mayor's Dinner," full two-thirds of the Town-Council being in attendance. Alderman Pollock was in the chair; with the Mayor (W. Kenmir, Esq.) and Alderman Barras on his right; and on his left, Alderman Wilson, E. Graham, Esq., and Alderman Davis. The vice-chair was filled by Alderman Brockett. Among the rest of the company were Councillors T. Cummins, J. Ormston, J. Potts, J. Robson, J. Smith, T. Sowerby, G. Straker, and R. Wylam, and Messrs. J. Fairbairn, F. Bennett, John Greene, J. Vickers, J. Colman, G. J. Kenmir, B. Matchitt, C. J. Pearson, W. Barkus, jun., T. Ferguson, John Watson, H. Grey, Jonathan Robson, J. Joicey, R. Geddes, James Clephan, P. Smith, C. Dixon, John Barkus, G. and J. Boyd, R. Coulthard, J. Beggs, J. G. Abbot, D. Robson, jun., and John Sowerby. The dinner was every thing that even an Alderman's heart could desire—commencing with turtle soup, and coolly and comfortably concluding with flowing dishes of ice-cream. The champagne and other wines were much approved by those who indulged in them: the Seltzer and other waters were no less relished by the Mathewites—(whose number, the worthy Father will regret to hear, was on a par with those early minorities of Joseph Hume, in which the office of teller was a sinecure). The waiters (who were numerous and attentive) having placed a varied and bountiful dessert on the tables, the bottles were sent round, and the Chairman gave "The Queen."——This and the other loyal and national toasts were drunk with every mark of respect; and then came the toast of the evening, "Miss Murray, the New Landlady of the Half Moon Inn: Success to Her!" The Chairman alluded, in terms of respect and esteem, to the deceased—and expressed his conviction that her daughter and successor, having enjoyed the advantage of a good example, and of considerable personal experience, would fully sustain the high character to which the inn had attained in the North of England. The toast was drunk with several rounds of cheers, followed by loud and protracted applause.——Mr. John Ormston returned thanks on behalf of his sister-in-law; and took occasion to acknowledge the liberality of the Vice-Chairman, in giving to the "Welcome Dinner" its most powerful attraction—the turtle. (Laughter and applause.)——(Song by Mr. Geddes, "Cookson's Alkali;" during which the company were almost suffocated with laughter.)——Mr. Edmund Graham gave "The Bishop of Durham and Clergy of the Diocese." (Applause.)——Alderman Davis proposed "The Member for the Borough, Mr. Hutt." (Three cheers.)——(Hunting song by Mr. B. Matchitt.)——Mr. Fairbairn gave "The Mayor and Corporation of Gateshead." (Three cheers.)——The Mayor returned thanks.——Mr. Joseph Robson gave "The Lord of the Manor, Mr. Ellison." (Applause.)——(Irish song by Mr. J. Boyd.)——The Mayor proposed "The Mayor and Corporation of Newcastle." (Three cheers.)——Mr. Straker responded to the compliment.——(Song by Mr. Geddes, "The Common Councilman," containing an allusion to the "white spruce" war, which was received with especial roars of laughter.)——Alderman Wilson gave the health of the Chairman, and spoke with much warmth of his public services, his private worth, and his social qualities. (Three times three, and musical honours.)——The Chairman, on rising to return thanks, was received with loud applause. He was always happy, he said, to join his friends and neighbours at their social meetings, and had peculiar pleasure in doing so on the present occasion, when they were assembled to pay respect to Miss Murray, the daughter of the late lamented Mrs. Calvert, in whose comfortable and first-rate inn he had spent many pleasant evenings, during the last quarter of a century.——(Song by Mr. Potts.)——Mr. John Greene proposed "The Members for North Durham." (Applause.)——(Song by Mr. John Sowerby.)——Alderman Barras gave the health of Lord Ravensworth. (Loud cheers.)——The Chairman proposed "The Vice-Chairman." (Applause.) He had long enjoyed the pleasure of Mr. Brockett's acquaintance, and was always glad to be associated with him, whether in public business or at the social board. He (Mr. Brockett) was ever among the foremost in promoting good and useful works, and showed himself as liberal in purse as in principle. (Three times three, and musical honours.)——The Vice-Chairman rose amidst loud cheers to return thanks; and observed, after making his acknowledgments to the company for their kindness, that he, too, like the worthy Chairman, had spent many happy evenings in the Half Moon. He had long known Miss Murray's excellent mother; and if good neighbourhood had not prompted him to be present on this occasion, a feeling of gratitude would have induced him to attend the dinner. (Applause.) —— Mr. John Sowerby proposed the health of Mr. Geddes. (Loud applause, followed by musical honours.)——Mr. Geddes returned thanks, and sang "John Jones" (who came to a watery end through teetotalism).——Mr. George J. Kenmir gave "The Ladies," with an appropriate preface; Mr. Cummins, "The Members for Newcastle;" Mr. Ormston, "The Coal Trade;" and after a few other toasts and songs had been indulged in, "Our next Merry Meeting" was drunk, and the company separated; so highly gratified, we are

Digitized by Google

sure, that they will long remember (and often wish for a "second edition" of) the "Welcome Dinner."

GATESHEAD AND THE CORN LAWS.—The requisition to Mr. Hutt, M.P., requesting him to vote for Mr. Villiers's motion, has been dispatched to the honourable member by George Crawshay, Esq., the Secretary of the Gateshead Free Trade Society. The electors were canvassed indiscriminately.

The number found at home was	330
Signed the requisition	252
For a fixed duty, and therefore would not sign	14
For free trade, but would not sign	8
Against free trade	14
Neutral	42

At the only contested election for the representation of the borough, which took place in 1837, the total number of electors polled was 387; of whom 236 voted for Mr. Rippon, and 151 for Mr. Williamson. The number of electors on the roll is 578. Two or three of those who signed the requisition expressed their willingness to accept a fixed-duty, as an instalment of justice.

GATESHEAD AND THE CORN LAWS.—Mr. Hutt, M.P., in reply to the requisition from the electors, has addressed the following letter to George Crawshay, Esq., Secretary of the Free Trade Society:—

MY DEAR SIR,—I have this moment received your letter of to-day's date, and the memorial, signed by 252 of my friends and constituents, to which your letter relates.

Will you do me the favour to assure the memorialists from me, that it has always been my intention to attend in my place in the House of Commons, when Mr. Villiers should renew his motion on the corn-laws, and, though not adopting all his views on the subject, to give my support to his proposal. Believe me, yours very truly,

Gibside, May 10, 1844. WILLIAM HUTT.

QUARTERLY TABLE OF MORTALITY. — From the Registrar-General's last report, we have compiled the following table—which will be of interest to many of our readers:—

MORTALITY.	Gateshead District.	Newcastle District.	Tynemouth District.	Sunderland District.
Population in 1841	38,747	71,850	55,625	56,226
Deaths registered in 1838	881	1,829	1,112	1,479
——— 1839	968	2,117	1,285	1,524
——— 1840	1,016	1,957	1,243	1,513
——— 1841	989	2,104	1,340	1,512
——— 1842	909	1,726	1,327	1,357
——— 1843	984	1,922	1,229	1,247
Quarterly average of the first five years	238	487	315	369
Quarterly average of the winters in those years	248	501	334	387
Deaths in the quarter ending—				
March 31, 1843	246	565	340	316
June 30, 1843	279	540	309	333
Sept. 30, 1843	198	394	300	292
Dec. 31, 1843	261	423	280	306
March 31, 1844	216	436	332	306

The population, it appears, "has been found, at all the censuses, to be increasing rapidly in the *town*-districts—partly by the excess of births over deaths, and partly by *immigration*." This fact does not bear out the assumptions of our landowning legislators, who would fain lead us to believe that the country is a much happier sphere of existence than our large towns. The immigrants are evidently of an opposite opinion.

THE BARGE DAY.—On Holy Thursday, or Ascension Day, the customary visitation of the corporate bounds on the river Tyne, was made by the municipal authorities of Newcastle. At 6 o'clock in the morning, the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Sir John Fife, embarked in the Corporation Barge, accompanied by an unusually large number of his colleagues, and by several other gentlemen. The River-Jury and Trinity-House Barges were also well filled; and there were assembled, besides, a handsomely-painted steamer, the *Olive*, occupied by the Stewards of the Incorporated Companies; the *Hawthorn Blossom* steam-vessel, with "Hawthorn's Band" and several gentlemen on board; the *Sir John Fife* keel, with 20 rowers, and the *Joe Lamb* with 14; a gaily-ornamented boat, manned by half-a-dozen Jack-tars in barristers' wigs and gowns, and a coxswain dressed like a judge, to the great merriment of the Mayor and the lieges. Gigs, and sculler, pilot, and other boats, were present in profusion; and when the signal-gun of the Castle was fired, every barge and boat was in motion for the mouth of the Tyne, the happy party rejoicing in the glorious May morning with which their festivities were favoured. On their passage, salutes were fired, at various points, on the banks of the river; and at the Spar Hawk the Water Bailiff made the usual proclamation. A sumptuous breakfast was dispatched in the lighthouse at the Low Lights, North Shields. The aquatic procession then returned to Newcastle, arriving at 1 o'clock. Shortly before 2, a start was made for Hedwin Streams, the western extremity of the corporate jurisdiction. At this place, proclamation was again made, and races and other sports were indulged in for a brief season. Returning to the King's Meadows, the boat-racing began; and a splendid entertainment was served up in the Mayor's barge, at which Lord Killeen, Sir Isaac Morley, Capt. Durham, and other military men were present. The meadows, and the banks of the Tyne, were crowded with spectators, and small craft swarmed on the river. The races went off as follows:—

FOUR-OARED GIGS.—£5 by the Mayor for the first, and £1 by the Sheriff (William Cookson, Esq.) for the second.

The John Bell (Thomas Anderson, owner) 1
The Joseph Lamb (Richard Robinson, Bell's Close) 2
The Sir John Fife (Ralph Lister, Scotswood) 3

Five others started: a good race.

COBLES.—£3 for the first, and £1 for the second, given by the Master of the Trinity House, for cobles belonging to licensed pilots.

The Roberts, No. 128 1
The Mary Ann, No. 33 2

No other competitors: won by three lengths.

GIGS.—£3 by the River Committee for the first, and £1 by the Sheriff for the second.

The Five Brothers (Glaspers, Derwenthaugh, owners) 1
The Robert Usher (John Gills, St. Peter's) 2

Six others started: won easily.

The procession returned home at about 9 o'clock, after a pleasant day, unclouded by a single accident.

THE UNIVERSITIES.—Mr. Ord, M.P., had transmitted to him, on Monday last, a petition to the House of Commons, of which the following is a copy:—

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Congregation of Protestant Dissenters assembling for Divine Worship in Hanover Square Chapel, Newcastle-upon-Tyne,

Sheweth,—That your petitioners hold and exercise the Protestant principle of the right of private judgment in matters of religion.

That their bond of union is an acknowledgment of the Sacred Scriptures as a rule of faith and practice.

That creeds and articles, in their opinion, are opposed to the genius of Christianity—have weakened the native power of its precepts and doctrines over the hearts of its professors, and obstructed its reception and progress among heathen nations.

That, such being the views of your petitioners, they are placed by the State under grievous educational disabilities, excluding them from the honours of Cambridge University, and altogether shutting them out from the University of Oxford.

That the proscription under which they are laid, by the imposition of subscription to creeds and articles of man's devising, while it acts as a bar to the admission of conscientious men, is no stumbling-block in the way of lax and unprincipled candidates for University advantages.

That schism and sectarianism are neither prevented nor checked, but caused and extended by tests and subscriptions.

That the University of Oxford—at one time spurning its Parliamentary representative on his adhesion to Catholic Emancipation — at another, suspicious of the inroads of heresy, and convulsed by the Hampden agitation—and now, shaken to its centre by the Tractarian or Anglo-Catholic controversy—bears testimony to the impotence of its subscription-safeguard, and to the folly of hoping for uniformity and quiet from the exclusion of Dissenters.

That the State has an interest in the good education of all its members, and would promote the cause of religion and virtue by throwing open the doors of its seats of learning to all alike, recognizing no distinctions or differences of religious faith.

Your petitioners therefore pray that they may no longer lie under their present disabilities, but that your Honourable House will so remodel the National Universities that they may be open to all classes of Her Majesty's subjects.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

Signed, on behalf of the Congregation,

THOMAS SWINBURNE, Chairman.

Mr. Ord, in a letter of May 16, acknowledged the receipt of the petition, and said:—"Mr. Christie's motion stands for this evening; and I shall have great pleasure in presenting the petition and supporting the motion." The motion is postponed to the 28th May.

Digitized by Google

THE COLLIERS' STRIKE.

(From the *Gateshead Observer*, May 18, 1844.)

THE unionists have held several meetings since the publication of our last number. One of these, a "monster meeting," was held on Newcastle Moor (by permission of the Mayor), on Monday last, at noon. About 10,000 persons were present, from various collieries in Northumberland and Durham, with music and banners. Mr. Mark Dent was in the chair. The first resolution was moved by Mr. John Tulip, of Hetton, viz.:—

"That, in the opinion of this meeting, we, the miners of Northumberland and Durham, have been an ill-used class of men; and we hold ourselves justifiable in ceasing from labour until we obtain an advance of wages on equitable terms."

Seconded by Mr. Thomas Pratt, of Castle Eden, and carried unanimously.—Mr. Mitchell moved the second resolution:—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, we have, by our joint actions and virtuous deeds, merited a great share of public opinion; and in order to maintain our ground, we pledge ourselves to keep the peace."

The third resolution was moved by Mr. George Charlton, of South Shields, seconded by Mr. Christopher Haswell, of Seghill, and unanimously carried:—

"That, in the opinion of this meeting, we, the miners of Northumberland and Durham, feel abundantly thankful for the help we have realized from our friends, the shopkeepers and others; and we do hereby pledge ourselves to come forward, like honest men, to liquidate all debts that may be contracted during our cessation from labour."

Thanks were voted to Sir John Fife, for the use of the moor, and to the Chairman for his services. The proceedings, which had been characterized by a spirit of peace and firm determination, then came to a close.

"The Question Answered, What do the Pitmen Want?" a pamphlet by "William Mitchell, Pitman, Ouston Colliery" who "has been more accustomed to wield the pick than the pen," has reached a third edition. If Mr. Mitchell wield the pick better than the pen, he must be a prime pitman, for his pamphlet is written excellently well. He throws more blame on the agents of the coalowners, than on the coalowners themselves; and we can readily believe, that when the proprietors of collieries were the managers of their own property, their miners would have fewer grounds of complaint. The pamphlet is published by Mr. James Williams, Sunderland.

The Coal Trade Committee, we last week stated, had received and answered an application from the Unionists. The application was in these words:—

"GENTLEMEN,—The bearers are appointed by the delegates now assembled, May 7th, to request that an interview may be effected between you and the Committee appointed by them, to settle the unhappy differences which exist betwixt us. It is currently reported in the world that you are waiting till we submit to come and meet you, which report subjects us to much insult and taunts. We are, Gentlemen, your humble servants,

"JOHN CLARK, Secretary.
"MARK DENT, Chairman.

"N.B.—We wait your answer."

The Coalowners' Committee, after taking this proposal into consideration, passed a resolution of which the following is a copy:—

"That, in reply to the above letter, the Secretary be instructed to intimate to Messrs. John Clark and Mark Dent, that the owners of each colliery are perfectly ready to meet the workmen lately in their employment, should the workmen be desirous of having such a meeting; but the coalowners cannot consent to communicate with other parties."

The Bedlington Iron Company have closed their works, owing to the want of coal. On Monday, the workmen agreed to act as special constables, for the protection of such pitmen as chose to hew coal; but on Tuesday they drew back from their agreement, and the iron-works have been closed.

During the whole of the past week, not more than a few chaldrons of coals per day were brought down the Durham and Sunderland Railway. All the coals at bank at Hetton colliery, when the strike took place, are now sold. The last cargo was shipped in the Wear on Wednesday.

The pits belonging to Radcliffe colliery have been set to work under the protection of the police, and ten men planted to hew; and it is expected, as the pitmen are attempted to be intimidated by only a few, that they will resume their employment, generally, in a few days. Every precaution has been used to preserve the peace, by swearing in a large number of special constables, and employing the regular police, including several members of the Newcastle force. The owners of the colliery, before making these arrangements, had served their unionist workmen with notices to quit their cottages; intimating to them, at the same time, that if they really had any grievances, they should be redressed, and that their employers were ready to meet them on the subject. A meeting accordingly took place—when the men laid their complaints before the proprietors. The latter proposed that certain points, on which a difference of opinion existed, should be left to arbitration; but the men refused to sanction this course, without the permission of the union; and the masters would not consent to the interposition of that body in the matter. The negotiation therefore broke-off, and the owners gave notice that they would resume colliery-operations on the 13th, and protect the men whom they employed.

An additional number of men have been set on work, this week, at Spital Tongues colliery, Newcastle.

Six of the collieries of the Auckland district (says the *Durham Chronicle*) have got to work, viz.:—Adelaide, St. Helen's, Etherley, Witton Park, Hunwick, and Evenwood. The majority of the men employed are not Union men, but *fresh* men.

Our contemporary's statement receives corroboration from a communication made to us yesterday (Friday). On Thursday, our informant states, six trains, of 50 waggons each, laden with coal, came down the Stockton and Darlington Railway from the Auckland district; and yesterday morning, three other trains, of the same extent; making in all 450 waggons of coal.

From Thornley colliery we yesterday received the following letter—for publication, we presume, in our columns:—

SIR,—For your information I beg to state that we have at present the following number of men and boys at work in one of the pits:—

Hewing coals	56
Deputy overmen, furnace-keepers, and others	17
Putters	21
Drivers, driving horses	6
Accountants	2
Trappers and other boys	6
Total	— 108

The majority of the above are strangers; and in addition to the pit now at "full work," from the daily applications for work it may be expected that another "shift" may be set to work very soon. The strangers are chiefly men from the railways in this neighbourhood.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,
Thornley Colliery, Thursday, 19th May, 1844. R. HECKELS.

(From the *Gateshead Observer*, May 25, 1844.)

THE delegates met on Tuesday and Wednesday, at Mr. Jude's, the Three Tuns, Manor-chare, Newcastle. After much discussion, it was resolved (according to rumour—for reporters were not admitted to the meeting), that the men should meet their respective employers, with a view to a friendly arrangement. The pitmen and their employers, however, still remain at variance. Meanwhile, the collieries are speedily getting into work with new hands. "The following collieries (says the *Courant*) have partially commenced, viz:—Towneley, Coxlodge, Fawdon, Gosforth, North Elswick, Willington, Killingworth, Jarrow, Heaton, Spital Tongues, and Mickley, which are protected by special constables and detachments of police. Breaches of the peace have been committed at North Elswick, Coxlodge, and Pelton collieries, by the unionists throwing stones, hooting, and otherwise obstructing those who are willing to work, and for which several of the offenders have been committed to take their trial at the sessions." The *Newcastle Chronicle* states:—"Throughout the district, the collieries not at work form the exception, but the number of men employed at each is small, and those, generally speaking, off-handed men, though there are also some regular hewers, not members of the union, amongst them. The men generally have not been much molested; but in some cases, we regret to hear, they have been subjected to much annoyance, and have been followed to and from their work by considerable numbers, hooting and hissing them, and at one or two places they have been still more roughly treated. Conduct like this cannot be too much condemned: it is moreover sure to injure the cause it is attempted to forward by it." In consequence of the disturbed state of the district, the magistrates of the west division of Castle ward, Northumberland, have sworn in a number of special constables, for the preservation of peace and protection of property.

Cuthbert Richardson, James Atkinson, Joseph Vasey, and Andrew Grant, all of Wrekenton, were committed, yesterday (Friday), by a full bench of the Gateshead Magistrates, to take their trial for riotously assembling and obstructing four men in returning from their work at Stormont Main Colliery (Gateshead Fell), on Wednesday last. They were told that a moderate amount of bail would be accepted.

Digitized by Google

William Nixon, sen., of Eighton Banks, and Thomas Turner and John Gardener, of Wrekenton, were charged, yesterday, before J. W. Williamson and Ralph Carr, Esqrs., at the Goat inn, Gateshead, with using threatening and intimidating language to Heath Dobson, of Eighton Banks, and John Lumsden, of Wrekenton, on Tuesday last. The parties were all pitmen; and when the complainants were returning from their employment at Team colliery, they were beset by about 500 persons, including many women and children, hissing, hooting, and making music on pans, kettles, and other domestic instruments. The defendants, who were of the party, were ordered to find two sureties in £20 each, to keep the peace for three months.——Thomas Morland and Christopher Ellison, of Birtley North Side, pitmen, were charged with throwing stones at the house of Thomas Lowrey, and threatening his person, because he had gone to work. Ordered to find two sureties in £10 each.——James Frater and Mary Robson, of Low Felling, were fined 11s. 6d. and 5s., with costs, for an assault on Thomas Davidson, as he was returning from his work at Felling colliery.——Thomas Hedley, of Windynook, quarryman, was fined 10s. for an assault on David Fargrave, as he was returning home from Felling colliery.——Henry Durham, of Low Feiling, pitman, was charged with an assault on Robert Twizell, of High Felling, pitman. Case withdrawn, Mr. Roberts undertaking that the offence should not be repeated. Defendant to pay the costs.

"The owners of Hunwick colliery (we learn from the *Durham Chronicle*) have, within the last few days, introduced between 50 and 60 strangers, coal-trimmers and common labourers, into the pit, to hew coals, who seemed exceedingly well satisfied with their new position. Some of the workmen at Trimdon colliery were, we hear, ejected from their houses on Thursday (May 23). The owners of Thornley colliery are winning a considerable quantity of coals daily, with their new hands."

The *Sunderland Herald*, in an article on the strike, observes:—"Our South Shields correspondent states that the owners of St. Hilda's colliery, and their late men, met last week, and discussed the existing differences. The owners made an offer to the men, and informed them that if they refused to accept it within a week, they would employ other men, and eject them from the houses they now occupy." We are afraid that the conclusion of the strike, come when it may, will find hundreds of the places of the former workmen occupied by new men. In the Auckland district, we understand, the collieries are even now tolerably well suppled with hands, while the turn-outs are "camping" in the fields in gipsy fashion!

Mr. Mark Dent, on Wednesday evening, filled the chair at a second public meeting in the Nelson-street lecture room, Newcastle. The place was about half-full. Messrs. George Charlton, Thomas Pratt, Edward Richardson, and William Mitchell, addressed the meeting. "The tone of the various speakers (observes the *Newcastle Advertiser*) was on the whole peaceful but determined; and no intimation was given that a speedy termination of the strike is anticipated by them." Our contemporary adds:—"Arrangements, as is now pretty well known, have been set on float for some time past by the coalowners of this district, to get their pits again at work. In addition to those already enumerated, we have now to mention Willington, Heaton, Gosforth, and Coxlodge, as having partially resumed operations. We have been informed that Felling colliery will commence full work next week, with an entire new set of men, unless the turn-outs should in the meantime accept the conditions offered by their late employers. If the pitmen should still hold out, they will in many instances be compelled to quit their dwellings, in order to make room for those who are willing to accept employment."——"At the commencement of Wednesday's proceedings (says the *Chronicle*), the lecture-room was about half filled, but the number continued gradually to increase until the close. Among those present were several of the shopkeepers and tradesmen of the town, with no inconsiderable sprinkling of mechanics. The only noticeable observations fell from Messrs. Richardson and Mitchell. The former stated that they came there to excite the sympathies of the benevolent, for though many of the unionists were better off than at the commencement of the strike, others were deeply suffering, and therefore needed all the assistance which could be rendered to them. Mitchell referred to the navies' or excavators, who have in some instances been introduced into collieries, and argued that their employment would not ultimately be beneficial either to the masters or themselves, and that the further introduction of such a body must reäct upon this district, as those of the regular colliers who could not find employment would have to resort to their parishes for support. In connection with this subject he said that a person or deputation from the unionists' delegates had on the previous day met an authorized party as the representative of the Newcastle Hibernian Society; and the result of the interview was, that the Hibernian Society had transmitted communications to London, and to the repeal wardens of different towns throughout England and Ireland, advising them to prevent the immigration into Northumberland and Durham of more Irish labourers. Mitchell also stated that he and other delegates were about to proceed to London to lay their case before the trades of that city, to receive contributions which have been promised. The miners were not unwilling to submit to reasonable reduction of wages in times of commercial depression, provided the coalowners evinced a disposition to act justly towards them in other respects and at other times. At present, he added, some 16,000 members of the union were so convinced of the justice of its claim, and of the advantages it had already produced, that they were determined rather to die than be beaten."

The pitmen held a meeting in Gateshead on Thursday evening, at the Queen's Arms inn. From 150 to 200 persons were present, including a considerable number of our townspeople. On the motion of Mr. Daniels, editor of the *Miners' Advocate*, Mr. William Richardson was called to the chair. Mr. George Charlton, of South Shields, Mr. Mitchell, of Ouston, and Mr. Edward Richardson, of Derwenthaugh, addressed the meeting, stating the grievances of the miners, and expressing their firm determination to obtain their demands.—[No allusion being made to the alleged resolution of the delegates, that the men should endeavour to effect an amicable arrangement with their respective employers, we presume that no such resolution has been passed.]

"John Hebden, Delegate," has addressed a letter to us, "on behalf of the workmen of North Elswick colliery," to the following effect:—"It having been reported that the coalowners were willing to meet the men on their respective collieries, but that the latter were prevented from doing so by the Union, the pitmen of North Elswick, to show that one portion at least of the rumour was untrue, offered to meet their master, and were told that he wanted nothing to do with them—that he would not speak to them, but only to the nine whom he had selected. Thus the boasted willingness of the masters to meet their men was tested, and found wanting; and the workmen, in whose minds the hope was raised of shortly coming to an agreement with their employer, were disappointed. They had to retrace their steps, and return to their hungry homes. But this is not all. They sent to the master the nine men he had selected—(curious that he should arrogate to himself the privilege of nominating his own committee!)—and when they met him, he asked them—what think you?—why, he had the audacity to offer them fourpence *less* than they had received last year! while the men (such has been the lowness of wages during that period) were asking 1s. 4d. per score on the broken, or pillar-working. His offer was considered an insult:—and so ended the interview."

A gentleman, unconnected with coalmining, informs us that an attempt was made, a few days ago, to negotiate an arrangement between a coalowner of the Tyne and his workmen; but the latter, when the question was put to them, admitted that they had not power, of themselves, to resume work—they must abide the general issue of the strike. The negotiation was consequently abandoned.

The average earnings of the hewers at Team and Waldridge collieries, from April, 1843, to April, 1844, were as follows:—

TEAM COLLIERY.

	£	s.	d.
Previous to the restriction voluntarily imposed upon themselves .....per day,	0	3	8
Ditto ditto.....per week,	0	17	7½
During the restriction .....per day,	0	3	3½
Ditto ditto.....per week,	0	15	5½
Total "set out" .....474 tubs at 2¼d.	4	18	9
Ditto "laid out" .....334 tubs at 5½d.	7	13	1
Ditto fines for misdemeanors	0	3	0
Total set-out, laid-out, and fines.....£	12	14	10

Digitized by Google

This sum, divided by the number of hewers employed, gives 0·1628d. (or less than a sixth of a penny) per day per man.

WALDRIDGE COLLIERY.

	£	s.	d.
Previous to the restriction voluntarily imposed upon themselves .....per day,	0	3	9¼
During the first restriction.....per day,	0	3	5¼
During the second restriction.....per day,	0	3	2
During the whole year .....per week,	0	16	6½
Total set-out .....198 corves at 2d.	1	13	0
Ditto laid-out ..... 76 corves at 8d.	2	10	8
Ditto fines for misdemeanors	2	17	6
Total set-out, laid-out, and fines £7	1	2	

This sum, divided by the number of hewers employed, gives 0·110d. (or less than a ninth of a penny) per day per man.

We received, on Thursday night, a letter from the Committee of the Miners' Association, which, at that late period of the week, we could not insert in full. But we give it with no substantial omissions, the passages struck out being chiefly comments on the conduct of our Conservative contemporary.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GATESHEAD OBSERVER.

SIR,—In last week's *Newcastle Journal* there appear some very glaring mistatements, bearing on the "PITMEN'S STRIKE;" and the Editor having refused to insert an answer to the same, we respectfully request you to give it insertion in your newspaper.

First, as regards the statement about Chartist leaders. We do assure you that there is not one of our "leaders," or at least the "officers," who is allowed to intermix Chartist, Whig, Tory, or any political principles whatever with his advocacy of the objects of the Miners' Association.

Again:—The delegates are charged with being the sole cause of the strike; as a refutation of which, we refer to all the general and district meetings in the two counties, at which the men have given expression to their wrongs in language too plain and clear to be misunderstood; and we do so without fear of being successfully contradicted.

Further, it has been stated that we are employed the year round, except a week or two at Christmas. The public resident in the vicinity of the collieries know full well that this is not the case. Many pits, during the past year, have only worked from six to eight days per fortnight.

We further beg, in plain language, to contradict the statement relative to the delegates getting up a public meeting in the Music Hall; which meeting the *Journal* states was chiefly composed of pitmen. We appeal to the honest inhabitants of Newcastle who attended that meeting, whether we are not correct in stating that, in the vast assembly, there were not more than from 200 to 300 pitmen present. No "orders" were sent to the collieries to "muster strong" on the occasion, as stated in the *Journal*; and the public, as well as the delegates, are fully aware that no "banners" or "bands of music" accompanied the men to the meeting; so that any apprehension of disturbance prevailing among the peaceable inhabitants of the town, is only a hoax, "God knows," to provoke the powers that be to pounce upon an association of peaceable and well-disposed men, who are but seeking to obtain protection for their own labour, by being peaceably united together. However, at the close of the meeting, the public were satisfied with the conduct of the pitmen on the occasion.

The Editor of the *Journal* also states, that "after hawking the requisition [to the Mayor] round the town, and obtaining *no signatures*, we had recourse to the desperate expedient of *forging names*." This, Sir, like the rest of his statements, is a falsehood. So far from the assertion being true, there were 274 respectable persons, householders of the town, who signed the requisition—and this in the most open, honourable manner; and it was only through the shuffling, turncoat conduct of ten or a dozen, that the Mayor refused to call and preside over the meeting.

In conclusion, allow us, Sir, to address our suffering brethren:—Seek to obtain a share of useful information; for recollect, "Knowledge is Power;" and wherever knowledge increases, every species of evil must proportionally decrease. Let, therefore, that spirit of unanimity which has hitherto characterized you, still continue to exist; and be careful that you give no occasion for any one to point the finger of scorn at you. Your cause is a good one. Continue your onward march, until, like a swelling summer's tide, you have swept Tyranny and Oppression, and all consequent evils, for ever from England's shores!

Signed in behalf of the Committee of the Miners' Association,

EDWARD RICHARDSON.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, May 23, 1844. WILLIAM RICHARDSON.

The London market, it was anticipated by the unionists, would be deprived by the "strike" of its due supply of coal. But what is the fact? There is, it seems, a glut instead of a dearth of coal! And this glut has led to an appeal to the magistrates of the Mansion House in London. On Monday last, Capt. Mildrum, of the *Eliza*, a Newcastle collier, appeared upon summons, to answer the complaint of George Thoburn and other seamen, viz., that he had detained them an unreasonable time in the Thames. Sir Peter Laurie presided on the bench. The complainants stated that they were only in the condition of from one to two hundred other seamen, who had worked colliers from the north to London, and had been kept six weeks in the river—(that is, from the very beginning of the strike). Having signed articles for the whole of the voyage, they were bound to their respective ships, however long they might lie in the Thames, and notwithstanding that they were only to have £4 each for the trip. The pitmen, they said, had struck for higher wages, and the coalowners were determined to have as high a price for their coals as they could get.—A shipowner admitted that it was a very great hardship upon the poor men that they should be detained; but, in fact, all parties were sufferers, the market in London being completely overglutted, so that if sales were made the loss sustained would be serious.—Sir Peter Laurie: Is there any prospect that relief will be afforded to these men?—Captain Mildrum said he did not know. He knew that they were much inconvenienced, and had offered them "half voyage," but they refused it.—The complainants said if "half voyage" had been offered to them when first they began to feel the effects of the delay, they would gladly have accepted it, but no proposition of the kind had been made until very lately.—Captain Mildrum declared that he did not at all detain the ship, but he was bound by the articles, and he sustained a loss proportioned to that which the complainants suffered, and he had much more to do, and the whole responsibility.—Some remarks having been made by the complainants as to the alleged tyranny of the coalowners, Sir Peter Laurie observed:—It would appear, then, from what you say, that there exists a combination between the coalowners and the coalfactors; and that as the public won't now purchase coal at the price required, you are to be the victims?—A coalfactor and shipowner rose and declared that there was no such thing as combination or conspiracy existing between the coalowners in the north and any person in London. The fact was, if the coals were to be sold at the prices now offered, so much money as would pay for the freight and other charges would not be received.—Another coalfactor said there was no remedy for the evil complained of. He had several ships in the port for the last seven weeks, and he was obliged, in consequence of the overglut, to avoid working them. The coalowners of the north had nothing whatever to do with the matter. Almost all the coals which had lately come in had been purchased by shipowners on speculation, and the speculation had failed, for the reasons already stated.—One of the shipowners, who is also a coalfactor, declared that, whatever might be the state of the market, he certainly would sell the cargoes in his vessels a week hence. He also stated to Sir Peter Laurie that all the men who had been detained would, no doubt whatever, be remunerated upon their return home.—Some of the complainants assured Sir Peter Laurie that they had no expectation of the kind. They never had the least indulgence or consideration extended to them by the wealthy men who had so much in their power, and who exerted the whole of their influence and their authority for the benefit of themselves.—Sir Peter Laurie trusted that some effectual means might be adopted to protect the men, and enable them to share with their families the produce of their labour.—The captain was then told that he was wholly exculpated, and the complainants retired.

The strike is at an end in Leicestershire.—A correspondent, writing from Leicester on Wednesday, says:—"The coalowners have got their pits at work again at Whitwick, with as many men as they required for the present demand; and the miners have all signed a condition affixed to the terms of hiring, that they are not members of the Miners' Association, or of any similar union; nor will become so, or contribute to such association, during their service, on penalty of forfeiture of all claims under the hiring; or, in other words, the option, on the part of the employer, of immediate dismissal. The turn-out has lasted for nine weeks. The men have suffered great privations, and I believe are now pretty generally convinced of the folly of their proceedings. The other collieries in Leicestershire have also resumed work, with their full complement of men. The union and the strike may therefore, in this district, be considered at an end. The owners have made a few trifling concessions as to wages, &c., but nothing of much importance. You may perhaps think it harsh to insist upon men abandoning the union; but if you knew all their demands, and their open avowal of their right to regulate the quantity to be worked at each pit and in each district, together with their right to choose who should be employed and who should not, you would forego your objection. It became a trial or struggle

Digitized by Google

for mastery. If they had succeeded, the property in the pits would virtually have been theirs. I am convinced that it was as much for their interests as the owners' to destroy and root out an association avowing such objects. It could have led to nothing but continual disputes and strikes. Wages with us have been quite as high as with you. Several of the Whitwick hewers have earned, for weeks together, 25s., besides house and firing. Of course they were the best men: the lowest would earn from 15s. to 18s., besides house and firing."—Another Leicester correspondent writes:—"Our miners, with their wives and children, have suffered severe privations; and, in the end, the women became much incensed against the fomenters of the strike. At one of the pit-offices, a collier, on resuming his work, exclaimed, 'I have lost £25 by this strike—*and for nothing!*' Another, an Irishman, shouldered his pick, and added:—'And I £15.'"

BOROUGH OF NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.
ORDER OF COUNCIL, FIXING THE DAYS FOR HOLDING THE
FAIR FOR THE SALE OF WOOL,
IN THE SAID BOROUGH.

WHEREAS, by an Act of Parliament made and passed in the first year of the reign of her present Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "An Act for regulating and improving the Borough of Newcastle-upon-Tyne," it is enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Council of the borough of Newcastle-upon-Tyne for the time being, from time to time, to find, provide, and appropriate proper and convenient places within the said borough, for holding and keeping public Fairs and Markets for the Sale of Horses, Sheep, Swine, and other live Cattle, Corn and other Grain, Fish, Butcher's Meat, Poultry, Milk, Butter, Eggs, Vegetables, and other Viands and Provisions, Goods, Wares, and Merchandizes, and for holding public Hirings; and when in Council assembled, by Acts or Orders of Council, to order and direct such place or places, so from time to time found, provided, and appropriated as aforesaid, to be used as public Fairs and Market Places accordingly; and also when in Council assembled, by Acts or Orders of Council, to ascertain, set out, and appoint such particular part or parts of the streets, market-places, and other ways and places within the said borough, as they shall from time to time judge proper and convenient, as well for holding and keeping such Fairs and Markets as aforesaid, as also for holding public Hirings, and also to ascertain, set out, and appoint such particular place or places in the said Fairs and Markets, or any of them, for the erecting any Stalls or Standings for vending or exposing to sale Goods, Wares, and Merchandizes, and also to make and ordain such Orders, Rules, and Regulations as to them shall seem requisite and necessary for the ordering, directing, and regulating the said Fairs, Markets, and Hirings, and for fixing and ascertaining the days and hours when the same respectively shall be held, and also when the said respective Commodities shall respectively be begun to be offered and exposed to sale, and how long the same may continue exposed to sale, and also the mode and manner of carrying and conveying the said several Commodities to and from such Fairs and Markets.

And whereas the Council of the said borough of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on the first day of May, 1844, in Council assembled, did order and direct as follows, that is to say:—"That the Market House lately erected in the said borough of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, between the street called the Cloth-market on the East, and the street called the Groat-market on the West, and now used for holding and keeping the Market for the Sale of Corn and other Grain, and commonly called the Corn Market, shall be, and the same is hereby, on and after WEDNESDAY, the THIRD DAY of JULY, 1844, appropriated for holding and keeping a FAIR for the SALE of WOOL; and it is hereby further ordered and directed, that the said Fair shall be held on the FIRST WEDNESDAY in the month of JULY in every year; and that all persons attending the said Fair, and selling or offering Wool for sale, shall stand only in and occupy such part or parts of the said Market House as shall be appointed by the Market Keeper for the time being. And it is further ordered, that this Act or Order of Council shall be printed in legible characters, and affixed in some conspicuous place or places within the said borough, and also advertised two successive times in all the weekly newspapers published in the said borough." JOHN FIFE, Mayor.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT NAWORTH CASTLE.

It falls to our lot to record an account of one of the most woeful and destructive fires that, perhaps, ever occurred in the county of Cumberland. About two o'clock on Saturday afternoon, May 18th, a violent fire broke out at Naworth, one of the seats of the Earl of Carlisle, when an express was immediately sent off to Carlisle for the fire engines and other assistance. The engines were instantly dispatched by the railway, and arrived at the scene of destruction about six o'clock. The progress and devastation of the fire in the mean time had proved so rapid and violent, that on the arrival of the engines the roofs of the principal building had fallen in, with the exception of the large tower, which the uncontrollable elements had not reached. The exertions of the firemen were directed to the preservation of this tower, which, after the most venturesome and arduous exertions, was at last with great difficulty saved. There are various rumours afloat as to the origin of the fire. Some say that it was from one of the chimney flues: others that it broke out in a room where there had been no fire for years. We understand that the valuable collection of old paintings, by the best masters, and also the ancient and valuable furniture, were nearly all destroyed. The smoking ruins of Naworth Castle are all now that remain of the baronial mansion of the great barony of Gilsland, situate in a verdant park, embosomed among lofty trees on the south margin of the river Irving. This specimen of a feudal residence consisted of two lofty towers, connected by other masses of masonry, inclosing a quadrangular court. Up to the time of its destruction by fire, on Saturday last, it was kept up in the style in which it appeared when occupied by Lord William Howard, the "Belted Will" of "The Lay of the Last Minstrel." Fortunate, however it is for the sake of antiquity, that the tower which is saved is that which contains the private apartments and furniture, his, library, oratory, and armoury, which "convey a strong impression of the solitary grandeur and inconvenient magnificence of the border feudal lord." The private apartments communicate by secret passages with the dungeons. Thus, whilst reading in his library, or engaged in his confessional, his eyes might still be directed towards his prisoners and their guards; so that it may be truly said of Naworth Castle, "that suspicion was its architect and fear its founder." Large concourses of people from Carlisle, Brampton, and the surrounding districts hastened to the spot to lend every assistance in endeavouring to extinguish the fire, but without effect, except the preservation of "Belted Will's" tower. Much credit is due to the firemen, and more especially to Mr. Richardson, ironmonger, of Carlisle, and other tradesmen, whose exertions were of the most arduous and daring character. The fire was distinctly seen on the Botcherby-road at Carlisle, a distance of about ten miles; and being Saturday evening, thousands of people congregated there, to view the distant mighty flames, which illumined the whole canopy of the sky for miles around with a brightness and effect most wonderfully astonishing and sublime.

THE EFFECTS OF THE COAL-DUTY.

Mr. Hodgson Hinde, on the 22d of February, and Mr. John Henry Vivian, on the 8th of March, obtained orders from the House of Commons for the production of certain Returns of the quantities of coal exported. This, as our readers know, was long before the announcement of the Budget. The Budget, however, appeared in due season—but the Coal-Returns did not. The truths to be revealed by the latter would have deranged the machinery of Mr. Chancellor Goulburn, and, therefore, their publication was, for a time, suppressed. On Monday last, however, being as nearly as possible three months after they had been required, they were placed in the hands of our legislators—by the kindness of one of whom we have been favoured with a copy. We can well afford to leave the trickery of Ministers in this matter to the contempt it deserves, but the facts which the Coal-Returns disclose are too serious to be passed slightly over. The official statement which has just appeared, added to information previously acquired from similar sources, has enabled us to prepare, and now to lay before our readers, a series of important tables.

Our main object, at present, is to deal with the export duty, but the Returns enabling us to complete a table of the

Digitized by Google

shipments *coastwise*, as well as foreign, we think we ought not to omit the opportunity of giving the former, as illustrative of the certain consequences of that suicidal system of "combination" which the coalowners of the Tyne and Wear have so long and so blindly pursued, and which has operated as a curse upon the prosperity of the two rivers. It is as follows:—

AN ACCOUNT of the QUANTITIES of COALS (including CULM) shipped at the several Ports of ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, and IRELAND, *coastwise*, to other Ports of the United Kingdom.

Ports.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.	1843.
	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.
Gloucester	39256	37987	36459	51863	75197	69691	74786	105766	82598	92667	84773
Newport	384536	427000	442912	415291	489473	438793	462014	482314	505974	503315	495396
Cardiff	138173	120774	123279	130969	169248	159614	159057	168201	153570	224707	265751
Swansea	386669	345847	361347	387238	491961	476110	496754	456659	450008	471150	401685
Llanelly	97387	94150	86680	85299	118942	138626	144859	192709	169014	169718	170608
Whitehaven	346841	354534	353920	402381	409493	324772	432591	428547	451357	301247	300948
Maryport										141530	124700
Newcastle	1992948	2017462	2261401	2274766	2368193	2448325	2149814	2297088	2368139	2341071	2280375
Sunderland	1175328	928909	928909	971190	931944	948398	918394	987777	937867	859137	877943
Stockton	578200	677941	677941	916440	1145897	1314839	1308778	1387559	1463492	1501596	1443091
Goole	130487	121444	121444	108507	94600	87293	132475	140476	144883	158776	175735
Borrowstouness	108322	110103	110103	106402	95366	115058	125789	130483	113234	104172	91114
Alloa										80974	70617
Kirkaldy	37751	44988	47049	46710	66092	60790	46960	52262	57159	47077	39857
Glasgow	76531	67076	77853	71189	66012	86125	100942	86906	75131	63550	69108
Irvine	115110	121146	147049	186161	187592	199474	248417	228976	191854	185883	169542
Ayr	46439	56189	58439	43922	53137	73457	91196	81973	81996	81986	71016
United Kingdom	6948908	5811180	6111030	6463118	7081899	7182351	7209998	7459070	7635675	7635733	7492247

"Combination," it will thus be seen, has done for Newcastle and Sunderland what the export-duty has done for the whole kingdom—*it has reduced shipments*, by encouraging the opening-out of collieries elsewhere. The shipments of Newcastle and Sunderland were considerably less in 1843 than in 1833; whilst, during the same period, the trade of Stockton—the theatre of those speculations of which "combination" was at once the parent and the patron—was nearly trebled. But we will say no more on this sore subject at present. Let us return to the delicious fruits which the *export*-duty has produced.

The following are the quantities of coal, cinders, and culm, exported from the ports of Newcastle, Sunderland, and Stockton, during the years 1841, 42, and 43:—

Years.	Newcastle.	Sunderland.	Stockton.	Total.
	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.
1841.				
To British possessions	77,989	20,608	6,525	105,123
To foreign countries	672,576	387,907	162,819	1,223,302
	750,565	408,515	169,345	1,328,445
1842.				
To British possessions	102,134	16,571	7,239	125,944
To foreign countries	764,147	348,315	173,569	1,286,031
	866,281	364,886	180,808	1,411,975
1843.				
To British possessions	77,029	23,271	9,374	109,674
To foreign countries	738,405	282,720	215,219	1,236,344
	815,434	305,991	224,593	1,346,018

The amount of revenue derived last year from the coal-duty, is shown by the following table:—

Quantities of Coal, Culm, and Cinders Exported.	The Amount of Duties Received. On Exportation in British Ships.	On Exports in Foreigners Entitled to the Privileges of Reciprocity Treaties.	On Exports in Foreigners Not entitled to the Privileges of Reciprocity Treaties.	Total Amount of Duties.
TONS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1,367,925 large coals	75282 9 8	26570 14 11	8226 2 10	110079 6 9
452,359 small	13215 3 10	9183 2 3	34 9 0	22432 15 1
3,229 culm	52 15 0	96 15 0		149 10 0
42,698 cinders			134 18 6	134 18 6
1,866,211 tons.	88550 7 10	35850 12 2	8395 10 4	132796 10 4

The next table we shall give, is an account of the total exports to foreign countries* of coals and cinders from the United Kingdom for several years past. It is as follows:—

Years.	Quantities Exported. Large Coals and Cinders.	Small Coals and Culm.	Total.	Amount of Duty. Large Coals and Cinders.	Small Coals and Culm.	Total.
	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	£	£	£
1833..	227,854	221,801	449,655	41,500	23,295	64,795
1834..	282,929	149,477	432,406	21,315	13,500	34,815
1835..	545,843	2,731	548,574	5,331	9	5,340
1836..	716,896	65	716,961	8,705	..	8,705
1837..	865,774	..	865,774	10,153	..	10,153
1838..	1,051,870	402	1,052,272	7,339	3	7,342
1839..	1,192,703	193	1,192,896	8,587	..	8,587
1840..	1,307,652	70	1,307,722	6,664	..	6,664
1841..	1,500,541	160	1,500,701	10,697	..	10,697
1842..	1,499,971	147,479	1,647,450	50,384	7,500	57,884
1843..	1,096,170	451,127	1,547,297	110,026	22,583	132,609

But, to understand the effects of the duty aright, the reader must know the quantity of cinders exported—cinders (although *duty-free*) being included in the official Returns of the total quantities exported. The exports of cinders from the United Kingdom were as follows:—

	Tons.		Tons.
1833	4,008	1839	17,163
1834	3,654	1840	13,783
1835	3,964	1841	16,514
1836	5,191	1842	23,434
1837	6,447	1843	42,698
1838	9,693		

The total exports of *coal only*, would therefore be:—

	Tons.		Tons.
1833	630,440	1839	1,432,254
1834	611,601	1840	1,592,530
1835	732,096	1841	1,831,780
1836	911,677	1842	1,976,070
1837	1,107,169	1843	1,893,613
1838	1,304,016		

A perusal of the above figures, we think, will convince the

Digitized by Google

most sceptical of the injurious effect the duty has had upon the export-trade in coal.

The remaining tables we have to give, are statements of the quantities of coal exported from the principal exporting places of the United Kingdom, and the quantities exported to such foreign countries as are our best customers for coal.

These tables show, first, our exports of coal, and *whence* exported:—

QUANTITIES of COAL EXPORTED, with the principal PORTS of SHIPMENT.

Ports.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.	1843.
	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.
Newport	2,609	846	2,823	5,578	7,179	8,612	13,035	7,115	12,842	51,936	56,994
Swansea	13,401	20,419	23,740	18,524	34,995	28,481	25,684	33,089	28,926	38,754	31,085
Llanelly	7,109	5,344	11,287	19,759	30,268	25,933	24,890	19,278	15,079	9,842	10,406
Liverpool	50,311	58,757	61,342	89,068	94,898	95,161	103,582	109,546	119,949	116,761	81,636
Whitehaven	17,187	18,121	19,606	20,172	28,190	28,015	22,616	24,318	23,478	19,106	17,664
Newcastle	230,434	227,444	309,536	411,697	471,150	545,972	543,846	583,041	737,456	846,849	786,542
Sunderland	176,414	149,932	154,518	170,367	242,252	307,828	369,882	442,095	408,191	364,455	305,626
Stockton	3,700	9,988	26,840	36,943	46,407	86,535	110,019	131,217	168,731	180,265	222,881
Hull	7,439	12,096	9,984	15,642	6,225	14,510	28,423	29,344	37,849	47,594	42,626
Borrowstoness	24,427	22,247	23,640	22,868	18,619	23,131	33,029	39,339	61,123	64,693	69,533
Kirkaldy	5,300	4,213	4,537	6,340	5,735	8,871	7,138	10,870	15,749	18,195	17,227
Greenock	15,263	14,710	13,998	12,780	14,857	16,598	15,955	27,312	29,517	23,168	17,647
Glasgow	5,247	6,945	7,469	8,505	3,175	10,767	20,723	25,072	28,773	33,114	26,130
Irvine	5,770	4,411	3,078	7,535	10,505	14,551	19,224	19,126	34,507	41,592	25,139
United Kingdom	630,440	611,601	732,096	911,677	1,107,163	1,304,016	1,432,254	1,592,530	1,831,780	1,976,070	1,823,513

Secondly, our exports of coal, and *whither* exported:—

QUANTITIES of COAL EXPORTED, with the principal IMPORTING COUNTRIES.

Countries.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.	1843.
	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.
Russia	42,627	34,840	41,735	57,986	57,707	66,527	73,968	90,930	75,595	82,395	114,640
Denmark	73,390	71,167	81,806	85,218	91,023	102,807	125,462	124,691	148,724	142,431	134,529
Prussia	23,917	23,641	43,527	43,379	49,853	60,261	83,638	89,443	115,501	110,530	147,360
Germany	69,323	49,863	65,691	62,661	75,115	88,689	111,901	119,600	169,695	165,277	147,127
Holland	113,776	94,065	114,774	127,212	119,524	147,284	177,997	203,131	171,242	176,166	149,816
France	45,209	59,604	104,001	205,007	272,059	334,369	340,086	394,582	450,570	515,779	460,669
Spain, and the Canary Islands	1,693	1,553	2,333	7,470	13,974	8,698	18,200	13,766	34,786	50,046	47,606
Malta	7,031	7,715	4,865	8,868	12,030	34,488	27,988	27,847	50,131	39,108	37,935
Turkey and Continental Greece	562	1,329	6,098	12,650	17,775	33,224	27,703	27,537	48,059	39,680	41,335
East Indies and China	8,128	5,337	3,516	9,473	15,397	18,994	13,721	32,676	63,698	53,967	29,961
British North America	54,832	54,848	38,406	43,918	49,477	49,872	50,797	50,634	54,602	49,695	66,062
British West Indies	46,187	43,476	61,054	61,936	69,057	65,407	64,053	82,508	71,298	95,762	74,817
Foreign West Indies	1,195	845	852	3,540	8,504	7,009	7,447	11,701	22,292	56,607	29,996
United States	28,063	39,555	19,564	30,220	46,574	57,175	52,889	77,325	53,207	60,836	33,866
Channel Isles and Isle of Man	53,637	62,925	68,354	60,454	78,616	68,936	78,557	77,441	78,620	83,271	80,084
Total foreign and colonial exports	630,440	611,601	732,096	911,677	1,107,163	1,304,016	1,432,254	1,592,530	1,831,780	1,976,070	1,823,513

Having now laid before the public the result of our statistical labours, we beg to express a hope that our contempora-

Digitized by Google

ries will not hesitate to make use of it. It is perfectly at their service. If we can benefit the trade of the Tyne, the Wear, and the Tees, by contributing, not only information to our readers, but materials to such of our contemporaries as appear to have even less leisure than ourselves, we shall be amply rewarded in the belief that we have done our duty.

That the coal-tax can be maintained for another year, after the serious evidence of decay in the exports which these Returns afford, we cannot for a moment believe.

* The exports to British settlements are *not* included in this table. In the subsequent tables they *are*.

† It is worthy of remark, that of the 42,698 tons of cinders exported in 1843, 28,892 tons were sent from Newcastle, 1,712 tons from Stockton and 365 tons from Sunderland.

THE COLLIERS' STRIKE.

(From the *Gateshead Observer*, June 1, 1844.)

THERE is a growing disposition among the pitmen to resume work. The following collieries (says the *Courant*) have been set to work with off-hand men, in addition to those noticed last week:—Wingate, St. Hilda's, Netherton, Cramlington, Radcliffe, Seghill, Russell's Wallsend, Springwell, Felling, Seaton Delaval, and East Holywell. Owing to a want of employment, caused by the strike, a number of sailors have, during the last week, applied to the relieving officer of Tynemouth for relief—many of them in a most destitute state. Several were given employment in breaking stones, but did not continue long at the work. On Wednesday, a number of keelmen also applied, who, on being offered work in the collieries, declined.

The new men who are employed at Thornley colliery (observes the *Durham Chronicle*) continue to give satisfaction to their employers, and are earning very large wages. One man, last week, hewed, in one day, two scores of coals, and received upwards of 8s. for his day's work. Most of the others are earning about 5s. per day; while the old men are starving around them. At Sunderland a great stir was created on Tuesday and Wednesday, by the arrival of two lots of Irishmen (numbering together 137) from Newcastle, per Brandling Railway, on their way to Wingate, Thornley, and Haswell collieries.

Four unionists were brought before the Sunderland magistrates on Tuesday, and remanded, on charges of assaulting "blacklegs" at Monkwearmouth colliery, and cutting and wounding with intent to do some grievous bodily harm.

Mr. Martin Jude, of Newcastle, appeals to us for the insertion of a letter in reply to the statements of a contemporary:—

SIR,—A statement appears in the last publication of the *Tyne Mercury*, copied from the *Durham Chronicle*, purporting to call in question the inference or conclusion of the workmen of Pelton colliery, relative to the profits of the owners of the said colliery.

In that article, the money paid to 170 men and boys, employed in bringing the coal to bank, amounted to £284 8s. 11d. for producing 3,234 tons of coal; the cost of which to the owners is 1s. 6d. per ton; leaving, according to the workmen's statements, a large surplus to pay *other things* with; which other things they do not specify, but the omission is kindly supplied by the above press—whose statements I intend to call in question.

The statements of your contemporaries made it appear that 1s. per ton is necessary to pay the rent of the colliery, and 1s. per ton the wages and salaries of the viewers, overmen, and fitters.

Now, Sir, looking at the statements as given above, and taking them to be correct, the statement will stand thus:—170 men and boys, to bring to the pit's mouth 3,234 tons of coal at 1s. 6d. per ton, the sum of £284 8s. 11d. per fortnight, at 2s. 10d. per day. The sum that the owner of the royalty receives for rent, is £161 14s. per fortnight, or £4,204 per annum. The viewer, overman, and fitter get a like sum.

There are two of the terms which are called "other things:" and we heartily thank your contemporaries for the information. We had an idea that about £300 a-year was what the viewer got, but here he is made the recipient of £1,050 per annum, or £40 per fortnight! No wonder the collieries don't pay.

But, Sir, the other items are worse, but we have not time to combat them at present, but shall return to them at another time, should any necessity appear.

To conclude. The case stands thus:—

170 men and boys are paid	£284	8	11
4 men, viewer, overman, and fitters	161	14	0
Rent, per fortnight	161	14	0

Thus the men, or workmen, are in receipt of £1 11s. 6d. per fortnight, or 2s. 10d. per day; while the viewer can, according to the *Chronicle*, command as wages £40 per fortnight, or nearly £3 per day. Not bad wages! especially when the *Chronicle* makes it appear that Pelton colliery-owners have sustained a loss of upwards of £9,000 per annum. Munchausen himself cannot beat that.

The *Mercury* and the *Chronicle* must suppose their readers to be very simple-minded indeed, to believe that a colliery can be carried on at a loss of £9,000 per annum. We leave them for the present, hoping that you can find room for the above, and thereby oblige,

Yours respectfully,
On behalf of the Miners of Pelton Colliery.
MARTIN JUDE.

The Marquis of Londonderry, in a communication to the Magistrates of this district, has expressed his expectation that, within a few days, one or two of his collieries will be at work. We trust the pitmen will not be so foolish as to allow their places to be supplied by strangers. It is easy to lose employment, but by no means so easy to obtain it.

We received the following letter on Saturday last—too late for publication in the paper of that day:—

SIR,—You will much oblige the colliers of Wylam colliery, by inserting the following in your valuable paper. It is currently reported that there is a great number of men working at the above colliery; and in order to set all right in reference to the number working, we state that there are no more than seven (viz.), the two overmen (William More, sen., and William More, jun.), Hugh More, John Harle, Thomas Harle, William Turnbull, and James Turnbull. The latter struck six weeks, and commenced on the seventh.

Signed on behalf of the Colliers of Wylam Colliery,
Wylam, May 24, 1844. THOMAS PRINGLE.

In reply to a statement copied into our last number, we have received the following letter:—

SIR,—You will greatly oblige the men of Waldridge colliery by inserting the following in your valuable paper, in reply to the statement of wages made in your last week's paper. It says that we made 16s 6½d. per week. Now, according to a statement made by our masters to us, we earned 16s. 10d. per week for 48 weeks. Now that, multiplied and divided by 52 weeks, leaves us 15s. 6d. per week. Now of this, for powder, candles, firing, and keeping our work tools in repairs, 2s. per week; leaving us 13s. 6d. per week; somewhat less than 16s. 6½d. per week. Now, in answer to the 3s. 2d. per day, there was good workmen. could not make more than 2s. per day in some places, since the last restriction. THE MEN OF WALDRIDGE COLLIERY.

Waldridge Colliery, May 27, 1844.

From the Team colliery, also, we have received a communication. It is in the following terms:—

DEAR SIR,—In your last appeared an erroneous statement of the average earnings of the miners of Team colliery. Now, in order to do justice to the said miners, we hope you will insert the following.

We are sorry to say we are not in possession of our earnings throughout the whole year, but we are in possession of them since the 18th of November: (and be it known that this colliery has not been restricted, but with the exception of one fortnight). We have taken the average earnings of two of the ablest men upon the colliery, and we find them to be, since that time, 13s. 8¾d. per week. Out of this we have had to find powder, candles, picks, and other tools, amounting to upwards of 1s. 6d. per week, leaving not more than 12s. 2¾d. per week; all which we are ready to prove at any time.

Signed on behalf of the Men at Team Colliery,
R. WOODHOUSE, President.
Gateshead Low Fell, May 28. WILLIAM WINDER, Secretary.

William Henderson, *alias* Errington, Ralph Hedley, Thomas Ward, Robert Punshon, Thomas Gilchrist, and Cuthbert Richardson, pitmen, were on Saturday brought before the Mayor and other Magistrates of the borough of Gateshead, and committed for trial for riotously obstructing (and Henderson for throwing stones), whilst the men now at work at the King Pit, at Wrekenton, in this borough, were returning to their homes on Wednesday week. The Bench afterwards accepted bail for their appearance at the sessions.—Edward Dawson, Samuel Russell, and Andrew Mather, were bound over to keep the peace for two months, and to appear when called upon, to answer a charge of joining in a riot at Sheriff Hill colliery, on Wednesday week, during which Michael Menham, a pitman at present at work there, was violently assaulted.

The Marquis of Londonderry's intention to visit his collieries having become generally known, a very large number of his late pitmen, belonging to Pittington, Rainton, and Pensher, were assembled to meet him, on Tuesday last, upon his arrival at the colliery-office at Pensher, for the purpose of stating their alleged grievances. His lordship gave ample opportunity for every one to express his sentiments, and listened with great attention to all that was advanced. The great objection on the part of the men appeared to be to the proposed mode of hiring; but upon their asserting that many individuals had been capriciously discharged, they were asked to name cases; and even among the men who had been unbound, of whom the proportion is considerable, they failed to produce any. His lordship addressed them at considerable length, and said that neither

Digitized by Google

from the nature of their claims, nor the state of the trade, could any concessions whatever be made by him; and that, however painful to his feelings it might be, to sever a connection of such long standing, a perseverance in their present conduct would of necessity, in a very brief period, lead to that result; and that if they did not resume the workings of the collieries, they must give place to those who would; any opposition to which, on their part, would be hopeless, as the supremacy of the law would be asserted and maintained. The men deported themselves towards his lordship with great respect and propriety.—*Correspondent.*

The *Tyne Mercury* of Tuesday states:—"Upwards of forty men have left the Pitmen's Union at South Hetton and Murton collieries, and twenty-one men have done the same at Oakwellgate colliery. At the latter colliery, during the last fortnight, no less a sum than £3 18s. 5d. has been earned by individual workmen, at the prices which the pitmen represent as being not sufficiently remunerative for their labour!"

"The pitmen," observes the *Newcastle Advertiser*, "have not yet returned to their work; and the colliery-owners are gradually obtaining fresh men to supply their places. We are informed that certain disclosures, implicating the conduct of the Executive, are about to be made, the effect of which will probably be to break up the union, or, at all events, to give those a good excuse for withdrawing from its ranks (and we believe the number is not small) who are heartily sick and tired of the strike."

THE COLLIERS:—GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE.

THE receipt of some communications on the grievances of the coal-pitmen of the North of England, to which we formerly directed attention, and of a pamphlet (published by Williams, Bishopwearmouth,) entitled *The Question Answered, What do the Pitmen want?* induces us to recur, shortly, to the subject, and to make some general statements suggested by the turn of events.

We are informed that the pitmen complain of the dangers to life, and the inevitable injury to health, entailed on them by their employment. In that respect we know that they do not complain without reason. No doubt a summary application to parliament, if it should listen to the proposal, to have increased means of comfort given by force of law, would be the readiest way of silencing this grievance; but in the long run it would not prove the best, and therefore we are sorry to see the pitmen looking hopefully to it. "We look to legislation," says the author of *What do the Pitmen want?* "to enforce, if necessary, the application of means to ensure the safety of our lives, and remove some of the sources of disease to which we are exposed."

And, accordingly, we find a petition to parliament has been got up—we believe in South Shields—having this very object in view. The *matter* of the petition is so good, that we have pleasure in subjoining it.* The prayer of it, it is not consistent with sound principle, we think, to grant; and this we shall endeavour to show. * * * * *

Governments, however powerful for mischief, (and that they are so, experience shows us,) are not by any means so able to do good; and if these pitmen fail in their present contest with their employers, having a just cause, (which we are not in a condition to affirm absolutely as to all the particulars, and are still less in a condition to deny,) such a failure ought to make them aware that the economical government of the country is on erroneous principles, but it should by no means set them to applying to parliament to aid them in forcibly developing their views. It is sufficiently annoying, we admit, for those who are at the bottom of the social scale, to find almost every class above them favoured by a protection to them denied. We have endeavoured to show that that protection, in the various ways in which it exhibits itself, is a delusive protection to those over whom it is thrown; though to those over whom it is not thrown, there can be no doubt of its great injuriousness. But protection cannot well be made to reach all classes equally; and if it could, the result would be precisely the same as if it were afforded to none, except that an additional stimulus to private industry and exertion would be withdrawn. It savours of the spirit of despotism to call in the aid of the civil power at every turn; and in point of fact it may be admitted, that under despotic governments the poorer classes are often protected from the tyranny of those immediately above them, in a way that the same class is not in this (only partially) free country of ours. But that is a reason why we should have more freedom: not any, why we should have more laws. The centralization of power is a deadly foe to liberty; and therefore we look with extreme jealousy on all these attempts to regulate labour, whether in mines, factories, or elswhere. No doubt there are evils to be corrected; but by their displacement in this way greater evils issue. The right of men to do with their own, in the legitimate meaning of that term, should never be destroyed. The pitmen, therefore, do not act wisely in calling for the interference of government to help them through their difficulties. They had an undoubted right to strike work, in the hope of obtaining more wages and more comfort; and the event, if they should obtain those advantages, show that they have acted wisely in doing as they have done. If, however, the event should turn out the other way—if they should fail to procure any or many of the advantages which they now seek and anticipate—that event will show that they have not rightly calculated their own strength—that they have misjudged the value of their labour in the circumstances in which they are placed—and they must return to work without procuring the advantages which they thought they would. To remain long from work will be foolish. If they cannot obtain what they want *soon*, they will not be able to obtain it *for long*. But supposing the latter event to take place, do we advise them to remain in quiet contentedness with their lot for ever after? We do no such thing. We counsel them, certainly, not to look to any despotic exercise of power for their relief. Let them rather look to themselves. Let them claim the rights of labour, since they perform the duties of the laborious. Free trade, cheap government, equal laws, and no protection to other or any classes—these are the great resources to which they must look for being permanently bettered.—*Economist.*

* The petition has already appeared in our columns. It asserts the insufficiency of coal-mine ventilation, and especially deprecates the working of mines "with only a single brattice pit."—ED. G. O.

NEWCASTLE AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY.—Yesterday (Friday), the Directors, with T. E. Harrison, Esq., the engineer of the line, and other gentlemen, made an experimental trip from York to Newcastle, passing along that portion of the line not yet opened to the public, (viz., from Darlington to the Belmont station). The travellers arrived at Gatesbead in the afternoon, in a train drawn by the *Cleveland* engine. The carriages were much admired, being far superior to any that had previously visited our ancient borough. There can now, of course, be no doubt of the more formal "opening" of the railway on the 18th of June—the anniversary of Wellington's victory at Waterloo. That the Directors have in some degree "stolen a march" upon "The Duke," by making an anticipatory trip on the 24th of May, will be readily pardoned by His Grace; for the Great Captain is too loyal to take offence at the preference given to the birthday of his Royal Mistress, Queen Victoria! The railway-historian may now make a note of the "great fact," that the first train which reached the Tyne by an uninterrupted railway-communication from the Thames, arrived on the auspicious day on which Her Majesty entered upon the twenty-sixth year of her age.—We have only to add, in reference to our paragraph of last week, that arrangements are now in progress to secure the more northern shareholders a trip to Darlington and back, on the "opening day."

NEWCASTLE AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY. — This line of railway, as we have before stated, will be opened throughout on the 18th of June; after which day, there will be an uninterrupted railway-communication from London to Newcastle and Carlisle. The trip from the Metropolis of the South to the Metropolis of the North will then be performed in twelve hours and a half and to Carlisle, in fifteen hours! The time occupied in travelling from London to Edinburgh will be twenty-three hours. Trains will then—

Leave	London	at 6 A.M.	and arrive	in Newcastle	at 8½	P.M.
"	"	9 "	"	"	" 9½	P.M.
"	"	9½ "	"	"	" 11½	P.M.
"	"	9 P.M.	"	"	about 11	A.M.

The last two trains will each bring a mail.—Trains for London will leave Newcastle at 6 and 9 o'clock in the morning, and at 2 in the afternoon; and respectively reach the metropolis at 8 and at three-quarters past 9 in the evening, and at half-past 5 in the morning. In addition to these up and down trains between

Digitized by Google

London and Newcastle, there will also be others for shorter distances

THE NEW STREET IN GATESHEAD.—On Thursday, May 23, the garden-wall of the house lately occupied by E. Graham, Esq., near Greene's Field, was partly thrown down, and the trees, &c., were all removed, preparatory to the formation of an approach to the new railway-station in Gateshead. So suddenly was the work of destruction begun, and so quickly was it accomplished, that many of our townsfolk were astonished at the change, on shortly afterwards passing the spot. They "felt lost," and could hardly "believe their eyes."

NEW CHURCH IN GATESHEAD.—The following subscriptions have been received in aid of the new church proposed to be erected in the western part of the parish of Gateshead:—

Cuthbert Ellison, Esq.	£300	0	0
Lord Ravensworth	100	0	0
The Lord Bishop of Durham	31	10	0
Rev. J. Davies, Rector of Gateshead	105	0	0
W. Pearsh, Esq.	50	0	0
Rev. John Collinson, Rector of Boldon	20	0	0
George Hawks, Esq.	25	0	0
George Burdon, Esq., Felton Park	25	0	0
R. C. Askew, Esq., for Mr. A. Askew	25	0	0
Ralph Carr, Esq., Dunston	10	0	0
William Kell, Esq.	10	0	0
Mr. T. Buloraig	10	0	0

Amounting altogether to upwards of £700 from twelve subscribers! It is intended, we understand, that the new church shall be erected in the neighbourhood of Claremont-place.

THE QUEEN *v.* EDWARD HALL CAMPBELL.—This was a special commission, issued at the suit of the Crown by the Commissioners of Excise, against the estate of Mr. Edward Campbell, who was a distiller and rectifier, carrying on an extensive business at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for alleged frauds upon the revenue, amounting to £15,871 11s. 7d. On May 28, in the Sheriffs' Court, London, Mr. Jervis, in stating the case for the Crown, said the witnesses he should produce would be two persons who were partners of the firm during the lifetime of Mr. Edward Hall Campbell, and some of the servants, who were able to show the length of time that the frauds had been practised.—Mr. Williamson, an excise-officer, produced 208 invoices of spirit of wine, which had been sent, and which were not accompanied with any permit.—The following sveral sums were proved against the estate, as the amounts of the frauds.—£2,222 1s. 7d., £8,905 10s., £3,607 3s. 4d., and £1,135 16s. 8d., making a total of £15,871 11s. 7d.—Verdict, "That Edward Hall Campbell died on the 1st of April, 1844; and that the estate was indebted to the Crown in the sum of £15,871 11s. 7d."—*Globe.*

THE WINDMILL HILLS.—The ten days' notice served upon the Boroughholders, pursuant to the decision of the Town Council, having expired, and the obstructions erected across the public footpaths being still unremoved, our canny townsmen were startled on the 29th May by the sudden apparition on the walls of a Royal Proclamation, conveying the commands of our gracious Queen that the said obstructions be thrown down forthwith! Our loyalty demands of us to give an exact copy:—

V. R.

PROCLAMATION.—Whereas complaint has been made to Us, that the Boroughholders of Gateshead have most shamefully and illegally CLOSED UP many of the ANCIENT FOOTPATHS upon the WINDMILL HILLS, thereby causing much inconveniences and annoyance to the inhabitants of the Borough:—We, therefore, by and with the advice of our Privy Council, do hereby command our loyal and liege subjects, the Town Council of Gateshead, together with as many of the inhabitants as can possibly attend, to move in procession from the Townhall, Oakwellgate, TO-MORROW (THURSDAY) MORNING, at TEN o'clock, and PULL DOWN such PORTIONS of the NEW WALL upon the Hills as have been marked for demolition.

We would also earnestly desire the working classes to attend in large numbers, as they, We doubt not, will enjoy considerable amusement by aiding in that laudable object—the Restoration of the People's Footpaths.

Given at our Court in St. James's, this 28th day of May, 1844.

God save the Queen!

The "handwriting on the wall" was not more appalling to Belshazzar, than Her Majesty's placard to the Boroughholders. They saw at once, that when the Queen had taken the field against them, they could no longer hold out against her Gateshead lieges. And so it proved. The appointed hour found a goodly multitude on the hills, amounting to four of five hundred obedient subjects of the Sovereign. The Committee in whose hands the Council had placed the matter assembled in great force. Aldermen Brockett, Davis, and Wilson were there; and Councillors Edward, Garbutt, Potts, and Revely. Councillors Cummins and Lister (senior and junior), the Town Clerk, the Stewards of the Borough (Messrs. Nicholas Andrews and George Watson), Mr. Michael Hobson, and other well-known Gatesiders, were also on the ground. Those "portions of the new wall" alluded to by Her Majesty as "marked for demolition," were thrown down in quick time, under the superintendance of the Committee. The populace, however, were not satisfied to stop short at this point. They considered, apparently, that the public had not only a right to use the "ancient footpaths," but were also entitled to free passage over every part of the hill; and therefore set to work to overthrow the walls altogether which divided the once-open common into small enclosures. Their task was executed with decision and promptitude, and the walls were shortly levelled in the dust. The builder of the wall looked-on, with his wonted complacency of countenance; anticipating, no doubt, an order for its reërection. If the people acted illegally, the Boroughholders had supplied the precedent, by audaciously closing the old footpaths, at their mere will and pleasure. But we are inclined to think that the act of the populace was *not* illegal—the inhabitants having a right to roam at will over those portions of the hills so long reserved from enclosure. If the Boroughholders are of a different opinion, they have now an excellent opportunity of putting their claims on the issue of a trial at law; and we should be glad to see the question fairly tried.—The Stewards, it is said, suspect the authenticity of the "proclamation," and have written to the Queen to ask Her Majesty if it be genuine, or a hoax! The answer of the Sovereign is anxiously looked-for, and had not arrived when we "went to press." If it should come to hand to-day, we will give it in our "second edition," for the satisfaction of the sceptical. For ourselves we have not a doubt upon the subject! [An official advertisement appears in a preceding column, to which we shall reply next week. The Boroughholders, so far as we can judge from their tame appeal to the public, have no notion of standing upon their right to exclude our fellow-townsmen from the free range of the hills.]

DESTRUCTION OF WALLS ON THE WINDMILL HILLS.

Gateshead, May 31, 1844.

THE Walls recently erected by the Boroughholders and Freemen of Gateshead, on the Windmill Hills, having, on Thursday last, been pulled down by a body of persons, headed by several Members of the Council of Gateshead, on the ground of several Ancient Footpaths being thereby stopped, and a Paragraph having appeared in the *Newcastle Chronicle* of this day, in which it is stated that application had been made by the Committee of the Council to the Boroughholders, "but as they declined to make the Roads again available to the "public, Messrs. Aldermen Brockett and Wilson, and Messrs. "Councillors Revely, Davis, Garbutt, and Edwards, together "with a number of the inhabitants proceeded, in a body, on "Thursday morning, and at once pulled down *such portions* of "the Wall as obstructed the Public Thoroughfare," the Committee of the Boroughholders and Freemen think it right, in order to show to the Public that they had not declined to make the Roads available to the Public, to publish the subjoined Correspondence between the Town Clerk of Gateshead and the Secretary of the Boroughholders and Freemen on the subject; and the Committee have further to state, that in consequence of the Committee of the Council declining to meet them, they, on the day previous to the Work of Destruction, proceeded to the Ground, and gave instructions to their Builder to make such alterations as would restore the Footpaths. The Committee also desire to notice, that not only "*such portions* of the Wall "as obstructed the Public Thoroughfare" have been removed, but the entire Walls, from end to end, have been destroyed.

The Public are aware that the Boroughholders and Freemen have recently, at considerable expense, formed a Carriage Road across the Windmill Hills, with a Footpath on each side of it, in the line, nearly, of the main Footpath used by the Public; and they believe that their alterations, when completed, would have been a great public benefit, and would have given general satisfaction. If the Public should be deprived of these advantages, the blame must attach to those who have

Digitized by Google

acted in, and sanctioned, the extraordinary outrage which has just been committed.

The Correspondence above referred to is as follows:—

No. I.

Town Clerk's Office, Gateshead, May 15, 1844.

DEAR SIR,—I am instructed, by the Committee appointed by the Council of this Borough "to inquire into and make a "Report upon certain Encroachments and Alterations of mo- "ment which are stated to have been made of late on the "Public Roads and Footpaths on the Windmill Hills," to give you Notice that the Town Council did, on the 8th instant, order that the several Obstructions and Encroachments reported to the Council by the Committee shall be removed forthwith; and I am further instructed to give you Notice, that unless the said Obstructions and Encroachments shall be removed on or before the 25th instant, immediate steps will be taken by the Committee, in conformity with the instructions of the Town Council, for the Removal of the same.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

Thomas Swinburne, Esq. WILLIAM KELL.

No. II.

Gateshead, 21st May, 1844.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your Letters of the 15th instant, addressed to the Stewards and Secretary of the Boroughholders and Freemen of Gateshead, respecting certain alleged Obstructions and Encroachments on the Windmill Hills, reported by a Committee to the Municipal Borough of Gateshead, I am instructed by the Committee of the Boroughholders and Freemen to state to you, that the Boroughholders and Freemen have no desire whatever to injure the Public, or to interfere with any Public Rights, by their alterations now in progress on the Windmill Hills. On the contrary, they are of opinion that these alterations will be for the benefit of the Public, and will be generally approved of. I am instructed to suggest that there should be a Conference of the two Committees on the Ground, when the Obstructions and Encroachments complained of can be pointed out and examined, and some arrangement may probably be effected, which may be alike satisfactory to the Parties and beneficial to the Public. If the Committee of the Council should acquiesce in the suggested Conference, I shall be glad to arrange with you the time of holding the same.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

THOMAS SWINBURNE.

William Kell, Esq., Town Clerk, Gateshead.

No. III.

Gateshead, May 24, 1844.

DEAR SIR,—I submitted your Letter of the 21st instant to the Committee appointed by the Council relative to the alleged Obstructions and Encroachments on the Windmill Hills, at a Meeting holden this morning; whereupon the Committee unanimously adopted the following resolution viz.:—

"That the Town Clerk be instructed, to acknowledge the "receipt of the Letter from Mr. Swinburne of the 21st instant, "and to state in reply, that the Committee have no power to "enter into any Compromise on the subject—their instructions "from the Council being to take such steps as they may deem "most expedient for removing the several Obstructions to the "Roads and Footpaths specified in their Report; and that the "Town Clerk do also state, that the Committee therefore hope "that they will be spared the necessity of carrying out the in- "structions of the Council."

By transmitting to you the above Copy of the Reso ution of the Committee, I best obey my instructions.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

Thomas Swinburne, Esq., Gateshead. WILLIAM KELL.

NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

FOR several years past, a "Return" has been made to the House of Commons, of the number of stamps delivered to each newspaper published in the United Kingdom.

The public—advertisers especially—were thus materially assisted in their choice of newspapers.

Such a means of judging of the comparative merits of advertising vehicles has been, of course, abominably distasteful to the papers of smaller circulation throughout the country.

Great, therefore, has been the outcry—the disinterested and purely philanthropic outcry—against the "Stamp Returns," in those establishments whose only chance of thriving was by keeping the public in utter ignorance of the insignificance of their circulation.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, it seems, has been appealed to, in their distress, by the gentry to whom we refer. Mr. Goulburn has been shown that the Stamp Returns have operated most injuriously upon the Tory Press, by letting the advertising public into the awkward secret, that, in almost every county in England, the paper of largest circulation is not a Tory but a Liberal publication.

It has been whispered to us, on good authority, that the following table was laid before the Chancellor of the Exchequer, by the deputation that waited upon him, in order to convince him (as well it might) that the Stamp Returns were nothing less than advertisements, by the House of Commons, of the superior circulation of the Liberal newspapers. The document is one which, we need hardly say, we feel much pleasure in publishing:—

A TABLE, showing the NAMES of the NEWSPAPERS which have the LARGEST CIRCULATION in the several COUNTIES of ENGLAND.

Counties.	*Papers of Largest Circulation.*	
	LIBERAL.	TORY.
Bedfordshire	Bedford Mercury.	
Berkshire	Reading Mercury.	
Buckinghamshire	.....	Bucks Herald.
Cambridgeshire	Cambridge Independent.	
Cheshire	Chester Chronicle.	
Cornwall	West Briton.	
Cumberland	Carlisle Journal.	
Derbyshire	.....	Derby Mercury.
Devonshire	.....	Exeter Gazette.
Dorsetshire	.....	Dorset County Chronicle.
Durham	Gateshead Observer.	
Essex	Chelmsford Chronicle.	
Gloucestershire	Bristol Mercury.	
Hampshire	Hampshire Telegraph.	
Herefordshire	Hereford Times.	
Hertfordshire	Hertford Mercury.	
Kent	Maidstone Gazette.	
Lancashire	Manchester Guardian.	
Leicestershire	.....	Leicester Journal.*
Lincolnshire	Stamford Mercury.	
Middlesex	Weekly Dispatch.	
Monmouthshire	Monmouthshire Merlin.	
Norfolk	.....	Norfolk Chronicle.
Northamptonshire	.....	Northampton Herald
Northumberland	Newcastle Courant.	
Nottinghamshire	Nottingham Review.	
Oxfordshire	.....	Oxford Journal.
Somersetshire	.....	Bath Chronicle.
Shropshire	Shrewsbury Chronicle.	
Staffordshire	Stafford Advertiser.	
Suffolk	Suffolk Chronicle.	
Surrey	County Chronicle.	
Sussex	.....	Sussex Express.
Warwickshire	.....	Birmingham Gazette.
Westmorland	Kendal Mercury.	
Wiltshire	Salisbury Journal.	
Worcestershire	Worcester Herald.	
Yorkshire	Northern Star.† / Leeds Mercury.	

This table has been framed, we observe, from materials furnished by the "Parliamentary Newspaper List," published by Dawson & Son, of 74, Cannon-street, London. Of its general accuracy we entertain no doubt.‡

* The *Leicester Advertiser*, entered on Dawson's list as a Liberal newspaper, has the largest circulation. It was started, however, as a *neutral* paper, and is now, we believe, inclining in the direction of the Monopolists.

† The *Northern Star* is a journal *sui generis*. It is the one solitary organ of a political party in the country, and can hardly be classed as a *county* paper. We feel, also, that the Monopolists may fairly claim credit for a moiety, at least, of the *Star*. The *Leeds Mercury* is essentially the leading *Yorkshire* paper.

‡ Messrs. Dawson & Son will excuse us if we point out *one* error in their valuable list. In their catalogue of newspapers, they transfer Gateshead from Durham into Northumberland! although, in their list of the Members of the House of Commons, they leave us, with geographical accuracy, in the county of Durham.

Digitized by Google

GATESHEAD TOWN COUNCIL.

p WILLIAM KENNIR, Esq., Mayor.

ALDERMEN.	COUNCILLORS.		
Barras, John	Bertram, C.	Hymers, J.	Robson, D.
p Brockett, W. H.	Cummins, T.	Kent, Samuel	p Robson, J.
p Pollock, James	Dunn, Charles	Lister, J., sen.	Smith, James
Sowerby, G.	p Edward, J.	p Lister, J., jun.	Sowerby, T.
p Wilson, Thos.	p Garbutt, C.	p Potts, John	Wilson, J. R.
p Davis, Robert		p Revely, T.	Wylam, Ralph

[Those marked p were present.]

THE Council met on Wednesday, June 5.—On the motion of Mr. REVELY, seconded by Ald. DAVIS, the accounts of the Treasurer of the Street Act Assessment were confirmed.

Ald. POLLOCK presented a Report from the Finance Committee, on an application from Mr. T. Neilson, draper, for a lease of his shop at the bridge-end. The Committee recommended that the application be not granted, pending the uncertainty as to the plan that would be adopted in forming a new street from the railway-station in Greene's field to the bridge.—Confirmed.

The Directors of the Newcastle and Darlington Railway, it appeared from a Report read by Ald. Pollock, were hesitating whether to construct their new street on the line laid down in their act, or to cross Pipewellgate by a viaduct or platform fifteen feet high. In the latter case, they would require the consent of the Corporation of Gateshead, and of other parties.

The Council, after some discussion, concluded that a bridge over Pipewellgate would be objectionable, and that it would be the most considerate course of conduct, and might save the Company some expense, to apprise the Directors at once of their dissent from the project. — A resolution was therefore passed to that effect.

Ald. BROCKETT moved, and Ald. DAVIS seconded, the following resolution—which was carried unanimously :—

That having learnt, with much pleasure, that the line of railway communication between this borough and the metropolis will be rendered continuous and complete on the 18th instant, by the opening of the Newcastle and Darlington Junction Railway, we, the Town Council of the borough of Gateshead, deem it due to the Directors of that railway to offer our cordial congratulations on the completion of their undertaking, and our sincere wishes for its success; and that the Mayor be requested to communicate this resolution, personally, to the Directors, on the opening of the railway.

The MAYOR observed, that the resolution, he thought, would be most appropriately communicated to the Directors on their arrival at the new railway-station; and he would be happy to have the company of as many of his colleagues as could conveniently attend.

Ald. BROCKETT presented a Report from the Parliamentary, Railway, and Bye Law Committee, stating that they had had a conference with Mr. T. E. Harrison, the engineer of the railway above mentioned, at that gentlemen's own request, to make arrangements as to the footpath in Greene's field, which would be crossed by the approach to the station. The Committee were of opinion that Mr. Harrison's plans were satisfactory, and recommended them to the consideration of the Council, Mr. H. having promised to attend to any suggestions which he might receive.

After some observations from Mr. REVELY and others, the following resolution was adopted :—

That, in the opinion of this Council, the drain recently formed by the Newcastle and Darlington Junction Railway Company, underneath the footpath on the east side of Greene's Field, is inadequate to carry off the great influx of water which is occasioned there by heavy rains; and it is ordered that the Railway Company be required to make a drain of sufficient height and depth, and with a fall of not less than half an inch to the foot, upon the line of the present drain; although it is to be perfectly understood, (and no permission as to footpaths shall be given to the Company, except on being guaranteed to that effect,) that in making the new street of approach to the station, from Tyne Bridge, a drain or sewer of sufficient magnitude will be formed by the Railway Company, to carry off the water from the higher ground southward of the station, and such other conditions as may be thought necessary by the Council for the protection and convenience of the public; and that the Town Improvement Committee be instructed to see that this resolution and order be carried out and attended to.

The "Corporation Quay" again came before the Council. No settlement had yet been made with Mr. R. H. Haggie & Co. or Messrs. W. Hymers & Co. The Town Clerk was instructed to abide by the resolution of a former meeting, authorizing him to enforce payment.

Mr. REVELY made a Report on the subject of the obstructed footpaths over the Windmill-hills, and the steps taken by the Committee for their restoration, under the sanction of the Council. Our readers are so familiar with the facts, that we need not repeat them here.

Mr. J. LISTER, jun., referring to that portion of the Report in which the Committee stated that they had authorized the removal of certain portions of the wall, inquired if they had also given authority for the removal of the remainder?

Mr. REVELY replied in the negative: they had done nothing but what they were instructed to do.

Ald. POLLOCK said, he deeply lamented what had taken place. He did not rise to defend the Boroughholders. He thought them in the wrong—that they had no right to block up the public footpaths, even though they gave the public a better road across the hills. They should have had authority to divert the road, before they acted as they had done. He had told them they were wrong—decidedly wrong—in what they were doing. But he must nevertheless express his disapprobation of the gross violence resorted to on Thursday, and his regret that certain gentlemen of the Committee, who adjourned to the house of one of their body on the hills, should have looked on, and made no effort to prevent the work of destruction. Such a proceeding made the borough ridiculous in the eyes of the world. The occurrence would inflict an injury on all those who, by the construction of the new road, now laid off, would have saved the turnpike-toll. The road was the very best that could have been made—the best that he, for one, had ever had; and he quite concurred with the Boroughholders in the propriety of erecting the wall on the south side, for the purpose of keeping up the bank where it was cut away, but which was now thrown down. He again expressed his regret at what had taken place: he had felt sore ever since. But he did not pity the Boroughholders in the least. He was, however, very sorry at the apparent countenance given to the work of demolition by the Committee of the Council.

Ald. DAVIS must disclaim, for himself, the imputation cast upon the Committee by Ald. Pollock. When he left the hills, the Committee had marked those portions of the wall which were to be removed, but not a stone had been touched, nor had there been any disturbance. The Committee had no intention to exceed their instructions one jot.

Mr. POTTS felt called upon to say a word or two, Ald. Pollock having referred to him more especially; for it was to his house that two or three members of the Committee had adjourned. He could say for himself, and also for his guests, that the walls were nearly all thrown down before they knew of it, and that they did not see it done.

Ald. POLLOCK: Perhaps you wouldn't!

Mr. POTTS: They did not see it done—they gave not the shadow of a sanction to its being done—nor had they any idea that it would be done. But he begged at the same time to add, he was not sorry that it was done.

Mr. REVELY said, he had no more idea than his colleagues of any intention to throw down the walls. They went to the hills to see the instructions of the Council carried out, taking with them Mr. Ledger, who had prepared the plan, and leaving it to him to mark those portions of the wall which obstructed the footpaths. His own opinion was, however, that the Boroughholders had no right to build either wall or house on the Windmill-hills, and that, in doing so, they had acted just as illegally as in obstructing the public roads. It was clearly understood, at the division of the town-fields, that the hills were to remain unenclosed; and the Boroughholders held them subject to the right of the inhabitants to walk to and fro upon them, just as they pleased. The public had too long remained quiet under the encroachments of the Boroughholders, and the Council had too long winked at them. He was not sorry that the people had at length taken their own affairs into their own hands, and thrown down the walls. He was perfectly ignorant, he again asserted, of any intention to destroy them, but not sorry that it was done. The Boroughholders had roused a feeling against them which would not easily be allayed, and which would for ever check them, he hoped, in their unlawful career.

Ald. WILSON said, he was one of the Committee, and had listened with pain to the insinuation thrown out by Ald. Pollock. He was privy to nothing more than the accomplishment of the instructions issued by the Council. What the Council authorized, that the Committee ordered to be done—and nothing more. Neither he nor his colleagues had any knowledge of any intention to destroy the walls.

Ald. BROCKETT said, he was glad that Ald. Pollock, with

Digitized by Google

whom the Council had always been on terms of friendship, had so candidly and so decidedly expressed his opinion that the Boroughholders were in the wrong. Such an opinion, from such a quarter, was of great value on this occasion. In the advertisement which they had published, the Boroughholders, whose conduct Ald. Pollock had so unequivocally condemned, had the boldness to apply the word "outrage" to the proceedings of the people on Thursday last. Why, it was themselves who had been guilty of an "outrage" on the people's rights. The walls which the public had thrown down, Ald. Pollock had told the Boroughholders they had no right to build.

Ald. Pollock: The cross walls.

Ald. Brockett: Well! the cross walls. Was it not a gross "outrage" to build a wall across a public footpath. To rob a man of his right of road, was hardly less criminal than to rob his person. Nay! it was far worse. There were few "outrages" more flagrant, than to defraud a man of paths which he had been accustomed to tread—which his fathers had trod before him, and which he hoped his children might enjoy when he was dead and gone. The highwayman, when he robbed a man on the road, had the excuse, perhaps, of poverty and desperation. But in the case now under consideration, they had a number of comfortable, wealthy men—gentlemen deservedly respected in private life—depriving the people of ancient rights of road—shutting them out of their accustomed paths—and thereby committing, in his opinion, a greater wrong than the highwayman who simply robbed a man of his money. He concurred in the opinion that the people of Gateshead had done right to throw down the walls: he rejoiced in what they had done. He was not privy to it—had no conception that any such "outrage"—even the very least—would take place. He utterly denied that he gave the people any encouragement or sanction, or that he had taken any part in the bringing of them together for the purpose. But he was glad of the result, and he trusted never to see another wall built on the hills by the Boroughholders. If they were foolish enough to make the attempt again, he hoped their building-schemes would be attended with the same result. He took shame to himself, as a Boroughholder, that he had not pulled down the walls long before. ("Hear, hear," from Mr. Revely.) Aye! and not only walls, but houses, too. And although he had no wish to resort to such wholesale measures, he would have been fully justified in so doing, by the "opinion" of the counsel whom the Boroughholders themselves had consulted. Their counsel had told them that they could not appropriate a single site without the consent of every individual Boroughholder—and they had never got his (Mr. B.'s) consent to their proceedings. What right had they to appropriate his property, (if it was his property,) without his permission? Talk of "outrage!" Why, they should be the last men in the world to dare to use that word! Ald. Pollock admitted that they were in the wrong: they knew themselves they were in the wrong. But, emboldened by long impunity, they had brought themselves to think that no one would meddle with them more. [Mr. Edward: "That was just it!"] "What was everybody's business was nobody's business." And thus it was that the Boroughholders were suffered to go on unchecked. Successful spoliation, in every age and in every country, was greatly indebted to this defect in human nature—this disposition to neglect what was "everybody's business," and treat it as though it were "nobody's." The right of walking on the Windmill-hills was everybody's. It suited the designs of the Boroughholders that the right should be abolished; and, in defiance of counsel's "opinion"—in contempt of the rights of the people—they ventured on the bold experiment of building houses and walls which any man, by an act of "outrage" (as *they* called it), might with impunity have pulled down. The enclosure of the hills was forbidden by the act of 1814. The act for the enclosure of Gateshead Fell made no similar reservation, and the whole of the common-land was enclosed. It was not so with the town-fields: the hills were reserved to the public. If it were not so, why were the hills not allotted at the same time with the other lands? It was pretty well understood, and he hoped, for the credit of Mr. Ellison, that it was true—(it was an act of which, even more than of the many other kind deeds that he had done, he might feel proud)—it was, he repeated, well understood, that Mr. E., when it was proposed to enclose the town fields, resolutely insisted that the hills should be reserved to the inhabitants. But whether this were true or not, the hills were *not* enclosed; and he should like to know, if nothing stood in the way, why it was that they were exempted. For himself, until it were contradicted on authority, he should continue to believe that Mr. Ellison expressly reserved them for the people, and prevented their allotment by the bold men who got the enclosure bill enacted. He should be sorry if Ald. Pollock thought that anything like personal hostility was mixed up with the recent proceedings; he should regret if that good feeling were disturbed which had so long subsisted between so worthy a gentleman and the Council; but there was a point at which, in the performance of his public duties, a man must stop. He admired friendship as much as any man; he loved social intercourse—he had given way to it more, perhaps, than some of the gentlemen around him; but the duty of a public man to his constituents was paramount to private friendship and good feeling; and the latter must give way to the former—must be sacrificed at whatever cost—if so painful a sacrifice were required. Such, he hoped, would always be the conduct he would pursue in public life. He might be wrong in his conclusions—he pretended to no infallibility; but whatever were his conscientious convictions, those he would obey, even at the cost of private friendship.

Mr. Edward, as a member of the Committee, disclaimed all participation in the destruction of the wall, but did not regret that it was done.

Mr. Garbutt said, that all his colleagues having spoken, he also felt called upon to say a few words. Before the Committee left the townhall, they were careful to settle the extent to which they should throw down the walls. Some were for more—some for less:—but ultimately they all fixed upon a width of four feet; and none of them, he was certain, had any idea of more being thrown down, either by themselves or others. For himself, he disclaimed all participation in the destruction of the walls. He agreed, however, with all that had been said by preceding speakers. He was glad that the walls were pulled down. He remembered, when a boy, playing on the hills, and no one molested him; and as a father and a citizen, he should like to hand down to others a privilege which he had so much enjoyed himself.

The Report of the Committee was now unanimously received, and the Council adjourned to Wednesday, July 3.

Nasmith's "Direct Action Hammer."—Hawks & Crawshay, of the South Shore, Gateshead, we stated some time ago, were making arrangements for the introduction into their iron-works of Mr. Nasmith's "direct-action hammer," to enable them to undertake the execution of orders however large—some kinds of work (such, for instance, as shafts for "monster" steam-ships,) having outgrown the machinery of their establishment. The hammer was "opened" on Monday, June 3, in the presence of Mr. Geo. Hawks, Mr. Longridge, jun., Mr. Nasmith (the patentee), and other gentlemen. The new invention, which is destined to work a revolution in Titanic iron-work, bears some resemblance to a guillotine. The head of the hammer rises and falls perpendicularly, and is wielded, not by the arm of a man grasping a shaft of wood, but by the gigantic arm of Steam! Steam raises the ponderous head—and then, withdrawing its agency, leaves Gravity to do the rest! The hammer erected by Hawks & Crawshay, in a building specially erected for the purpose, is of the largest description. The head weighs no less than three tons and a half, and is worked by an engine of 50-horse power: the weight of the anvil is seven tons! The hammer was tried on masses of red-hot iron of various sizes, to show that it was applicable to small work as well as to large, (although, of course, below a certain mark, it would be an unprofitable expenditure of power to call so large a hammer into operation). Nothing was more remarkable and pleasing, in connection with this beautiful emanation of mechanical genius, than the docility, the tractableness, of the hammer. In obedience to the will of the workman, it will give a blow from an elevation of five feet or five-eighths of an inch. It will move slowly or quickly, as commanded—or suddenly halt in its downward course, and withhold the threatened blow. An elephant is not more obedient to its keeper, than the "direct-action hammer" to the hand of its superintendent. Like the elephant, too, it will "pick up a pin or uproot an oak"—will forge a needle for a sempstress or a shaft for a steam-ship; while—unlike poor *Chusie* of Exeter Change—it is not liable to "derangement." When, from a molten mass of iron, it had forged a bar of considerable length,

Digitized by Google

one of the two foremen (the brothers Jelly) observed, (turning to Mr. Hawks,) "There, Sir! there's not another hammer in your works that could have done it at one heat."—Mr. Hawks expressed to Mr. Nasmith his perfect satisfaction with the hammer, so far as the experiments of the day warranted the formation of a judgment on its merits; and the workmen then fired a royal salute, and "one cannon more," in honour of the new hammer. The patentee, we understand, is constructing four of his hammers for the Emperor of Russia, at his works in Patricroft, near Manchester. Several have also been introduced into France, the United States, and other countries. Hawks & Crawshay have been the first to introduce it into the North of England. Theirs, we have stated, is one of the largest that has been constructed. Smaller ones have been made, even down to a hammer of a hundredweight; but in such cases the construction is varied—steam being applied, not only below, but also above the hammer, to assist the force of gravity.—Hawks & Crawshay, in the afternoon, entertained the patentee and a few friends at dinner, in the Half Moon inn, Gateshead; when the social party spent three or four hours in agreeable conversation, and drunk several toasts appropriate to the occasion—paying homage to "cunning workmen" of all ages, "in brass and in iron," from Tubal Cain down to George Stephenson! Mr. Hutchinson responded to the toast of "Stephenson & Co;" Mr. Thorman, to "Losh, Wilson, & Bell;" Mr. R. Coulthard, to "The Brandling Junction Railway Company;" Mr. Hawks, to "Hawks & Crawshay;" Mr. Cameron, to "The Vice-Chairman;" Mr. Nasmith, to "The Patentee;" Mr. Clephan, to "The *Gateshead Observer* and the Press;" and Mr. Golightly, to his own health.—In the evening, the workmen at the iron-works assembled to enjoy a substantial supper, provided by their employers in celebration of the day.

THE TRINITY HOUSE.—The Master of the Trinity House of Newcastle (John Hunter, Esq.), with the brethren and other members of that ancient corporation, held, on Monday, June 3, the annual examinatory survey of the river Tyne, Tynemouth bar, and the light-houses, almshouses, &c., at Shields, belonging to the Trinity House. A party of about fifty were entertained in the forenoon, by the Master, at breakfast, at the Low Lights, North Shields; and in the evening, a grand dinner was given by him, in the magnificent hall of the Trinity House. The dinner-party, which consisted of about eighty gentlemen, included the Mayor, the Vicar, the Sheriff, and the Under-Sheriff of Newcastle; the Mayor of Gateshead; Capt. Trotter, R.N.; Aldermen Lamb, Dunn, Hodgson, Losh, Wilson, and Brockett; and Councillors Archbold, Ridley, Proctor, Plummer, Philipson, Gray, Straker, Rayne, Lowrey, Crawhall, and W. Turner; the French Consul (M. Dillon); the Collector of the Customs of Stockton; Capt. Lay (of the *Tudor*); Joseph Simpson, Esq., West House; W. Ord, Esq., of Sunderland; Henry and John Dale, and John Tinley, Esqrs., of North Shields; R. Anderson, Esq., of South Shields; the Rev. R. Green (the chaplain) and his son; and T. Leighton, C. T. Potts, R. Airey, J. Harle, J. Rayne, J. Ayre, G. Hogg, J. Fram, S. Danson, G. A. Lambert, T. Bell, — Thompson, — Dawson, F. A. Pattison, C. Hunter, William Dunn, John Straker, G. W. Hodge, Thomas Smith, Thomas Elder, — Young, J. & H. Wheatley, James Dale, Thomas Scott, C. Allhusen, — Seppings, M. Nesbitt, R. Geddes, G Gray, William Smith, P. Dale, S. Rayne, C. Griffith, and W Crichton, Esqrs. The chair, of course, was occupied by the Master; and the vice-chairs were filled by Messrs. Currie (the Secretary) and Stanhope; all of whom ably executed their duties. The dinner, including turtle, venison, salmon, and all the other delicacies of the season, with the finest wines, was supplied, with his usual felicitous talent, by Mr. Webb, the worthy landlord of the Three Indian Kings; and the proceedings, enlivened with excellent songs from Mr. Geddes, Mr. Nixon, and others, afforded great happiness to the party. During the evening, Sir John Fife alluded, in eloquent and appropriate terms, to the good feeling which he believed at present existed between France and England, and to the great importance to the cause of freedom, civilization, and peace that that good understanding should continue; and the health of the King of the French was subsequently drank with the greatest enthusiasm.—M. Dillon, the French Consul, very cordially responded to these expressions of kindly feeling—a feeling which we should gladly see exhibited on every fitting occasion.

THE COLLIERS' STRIKE.

(From the *Gateshead Observer*, June 8, 1844.)

THE Miners' Committee have published an "Appendix" to their Report, signed by "Edward Richardson," "William Richardson," and "John Clark, District Secretary." We received a printed copy on Thursday afternoon—too late for entire insertion:—an abstract is all we can give. The Report includes a table of "the per centage demanded on the principal part of the collieries; also the average per centage on the whole." The number of collieries named is 88—the *average* being as follows:—

	Hewing.	Putting.	Driving.	Trapping.
Per centage now demanded..	18¾ ..	17¾ ..	10¼ ..	15¼
Reduction in 1842 and 1843..	23 ..	26 ..	10½ ..	21
Average differences	4¼	8¼	0	5¾

"We have not interfered," say the Committee, "with overmen, deputies, &c., as we are not in possession of any accounts to prove the amount of wages actually paid to these men, neither do we know their number, but have solely confined ourselves to such as are hewers, putters, &c. As to the amount of wages received, before or after the restriction of labour, we beg to subjoin the following short but accurate account of the earnings of men on some of the collieries, which will, we trust, have a tendency to remove that false impression so generally propagated in the exaggerated reports which have been brought before the public; and hence it will be seen that the net amount of wages received is actually lower than at first conceived."—The wages-table, referred to above, includes the gross earnings of eight hewers, in the year ending April 5, 1844; the detailed deductions for powder, candles, fire-coal, tools, fines, and forfeitures; and the net yearly and weekly income. The hewers are:—O. Dotchin, Spital Tongues; R. Coulson, South Hetton; William Greenwell, Kibblesworth; William Bulman, Coxlodge; ———, Urpeth; W. Macmillan, Woodhouse Close; R. Hall, Walker; and ———, South Moor. We give an abstract of the table:—

Colliery.	Gross Year's Wages.	Deductions.	Net Year's Income.	Net Weekly Income.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Spital Tongues.....	43 0 0	4 15 4	38 4 8	0 14 8½
South Hetton	35 0 4	5 0 3	30 0 1	0 11 6½
Kibblesworth	32 18 5½	3 13 11	29 4 6½	0 11 2½
Coxlodge	34 1 10½	4 19 8	29 2 2½	0 11 2½
Urpeth	35 13 9	2 15 5	32 18 4	0 12 7
Woodhouse Close*	30 15 7	6 0 0	24 15 7	0 9 6
Walker	39 14 6½	1 12 10¾	38 1 7¾	0 14 7¾
South Moor	36 4 11	3 17 10	32 7 1	0 12 5½

* House-rent.

"The amount of fines here stated (we quote the Committee's Report) is much less than what the men have really paid; but some men having kept no account of their fines and forfeitures, we are unable to give them. The sums given in the last two columns are actually the *highest amount* of wages earned by any man in the above collieries, and are, we are sure, more than an average of the generality of the trade—which, we can avouch, will not amount to more than 11s. per week. We have stated, and again state, that with former prices it is impossible for men to live, and to do justice to themselves and families; and we will sooner agree to hire for meat and clothes, than work for nothing, and thus be kept in hunger and starvation."

Such appears to be the determination of the unionists; and many painful scenes have been presented this week, in the ejection of families from their cottages, to make room for others. Hundreds of pitmen are therefore, at the present time, camping in the lanes like gipsies. Whatever may be thought of their claims, their dogged perseverance in the assertion of them, in defiance of privation, and hunger, and houselessness, cannot but command the admiration of their countrymen.

A Sacristan collier committed suicide on Sunday, in a fit of despondency, arising from the strike. It is supposed—but, we believe, untruly—that the unionists are supported by a fund: we are informed that they have no such source of maintenance.

Six colliers, with their families, (says the *Tyne Mercury*,) were turned out of their houses, on the 31st ult., at the Felling, to make room for others who were willing to work. The expelled have encamped in the neighbourhood of the colliery. There are at present 16 "*hewers*" employed at the Felling.—The following is the total number of hewers at present employed, the number of men who have left the union and resumed work,

Digitized by Google

together with a statement of the quantity of chaldrons raised per day :—

	Tyne.	Wear.	Tees.	Total.
Hewers	620	349	417	1,386
Men left the Union	53	62	100	215
Chaldrons per day	835	500	620	1,955

In a reply to the foregoing, signed by "William Richardson" and "John Clark" on behalf of the miners, we are assured that, after "the most diligent inquiry," the following statement has been ascertained to be the truth :—"*Tyne*, 205 hewers, 45 men left the union, 200 chaldrons produced. *Wear*, 116 hewers, 29 left the union, 109 chaldrons. *Tees*, 130 hewers, 18 left the union, 141 chaldrons. *Total*, 451 hewers, 92 left the union, 450 chaldrons produced. Of the 92 men who have left the union, 70 are deputies, shifters, brokemen, &c."

"A Miner," whose letter we received only yesterday, contradicts several assertions made in the *Journal*, and asks :—"1. How many days were the miners of Northumberland and Durham employed per week, on an average, before they restricted themselves?—2. How can the miners secure constant work?—3. How can a man, who was never in a coal-pit, institute a comparison between the healthfulness of a factory and a colliery?"

The "Team" and "Waldridge" rejoinder, received last night, must stand over to Saturday next.

Mr. W. Thomason, on Tuesday, addressed a public meeting in the Nelson-street lecture-room, Newcastle, on the conduct of the "executive" and "law establishment" of the union, whose partisans (says the *Newcastle Advertiser*) were present in large numbers—and one of them was in the chair. Mr. Thomason (our contemporary states) was assailed in a most unfair and unmanly manner; and although all discussion was Burked, the "executive" had the courage to propose and press a resolution, to the effect that the meeting had investigated the charges, and ascertained them to be unfounded!—The *Newcastle Courant*, in its report of the proceedings, observes :—

"An amendment was proposed stating that Mr. Thomason had not had a fair hearing, but it was defeated, notwithstanding its manifest truth; for at no time was he allowed to proceed without interruption. In fact, the greater part of the time was wasted in confusion of the most disgraceful character—in the bandying of vulgar epithets, and the imputation of dishonest motives. A more uproarious meeting has not been held in Newcastle for some years, nor could there be one in which partizanship more strongly predominated. It may not have been altogether unproductive of good, inasmuch as it must satisfy the least reflecting of the miners, how completely they have from time to time been duped by parties who have set themselves up as their advocates and enlighteners—who have tolerated each other's conduct as long as the same game was to be played—and who close their career by showing to the world their own worthlessness, by mutual recrimination and exposure."

Several men, formerly occupied in contract work on railways, are now working at Blaydon Main colliery, having lost their railway-engagements in consequence of pitmen undertaking their jobs at lower prices—in some cases one-half! Strange that men who "strike" for higher wages, and combine together to accomplish their ends, should deprive other persons of their work by accepting it on lower terms!—*Correspondent.*

Thomas West, Robert Palmer, John Ovington, and Thomas Ellison, pitmen "on strike," were brought before the Sunderland magistrates on Saturday, charged with riot and assault—(almost murder, indeed)—on the 21st ult., at Monkwearmouth, Edmund Hayton, a "blackleg," had been working in Monkwearmouth pit, and was returning home, when a mob of unionists fell upon him in a field, and beat him most brutally. Thomas Watson, a plumber, had the manliness to warn them against proceeding further with their violence; and he, too, was then assaulted, and nearly killed. The prisoners were all committed for trial at the assizes.

(From the *Gateshead Observer*, June 15, 1844.)

THE coalowners have made a further Return, dated June 8, showing the number of hewers at present employed, the number of seceders from the union, and the quantity of chaldrons raised per day. We give a copy :—

	Hewers at Work.	Left the Union.	Chaldrons. per Day.
Tyne	890	75	1260
Wear	584	123	821
Tees	501	232	637
Total, June 8	1975	430	2718
Ditto, June 1	1386	215	1955
Week's increase	589	215	763

Three coal-hewers at Cramlington colliery, who are now working on the old terms—terms on which an advance of 27 per cent. is demanded—have earned (says a correspondent) the following wages during the last fortnight:—

	Average Wages per Day.
Mark and John Barnes, first five days, each	7s. 5¼d.
" " next four	11s. 6¼d.
" " next three	10s. 3d.
" " next one	13s. 9d.
Joseph Charlton, first six days	7s. 11d.
" " next four	9s. 6¾d.
" " next two	10s. 7d.

The Marquis of Londonderry's agreement with his pitmen, reported by one or two of our contemporaries, existed only in idle rumour.

Mr. Edward Richardson, of Derwent iron works colliery, addressed a public meeting in Glasgow on the 31st ult. He stated :—1. That the coalowners always kept a number of unbound men, who were discharged a month or two before the "binding," that, by the 5th of April, they might be hungry for work, and be glad of engagements on any terms; whereby the whole body of pitmen were placed at the mercy of their masters.—2. That it was on this account the "restriction" was adopted, so that the number of unemployed men might be kept down as much as possible.—3. That in one year, at one colliery, the sum of £120 7s. 10d. had been deducted in fines, and £3,252 8s. 11½d. in wages.—4. That the increase demanded in wages was full 5 per cent. less than the decrease which took place in 1842-43.—5. That the "guarantee," of which so much had been said, did not extend to more than 15s. per week for five days' work; which being granted, the strike would be at an end.—6. That 10s. per week "smart money" was demanded simply to make the coalowners more careful of the safety of their men.—7. That the men were now, at the end of two months, in a better condition for the strike than when they first ceased work.—8. That not a dozen unionists had fallen away from the strike.—9. That the owners, aided by the "rurals," were doing all in their power to provoke breaches of the peace, but, with a few exceptions, had so far failed.—[The meeting passed a resolution expressing sympathy and promising support.]

John Bright, pitman, committed to Durham gaol on the 6th inst., for an assault on a "black-leg," died on Tuesday. He was subject to epilepsy.

John Drummond, George Cherry, and Edward Elliott, of Wingate Grange colliery, having been apprehended on Thursday, on a charge of intimidating the men employed at Hartbushes pit, the unionists came to the rescue, but were overpowered by the "rurals," and fifteen of them lodged in prison. A gun was fired at the police before the disturbance broke out.

A writ of *certiorari* was served upon the five magistrates of Sunderland, who committed for trial and refused bail for the four pitmen of Monkwearmouth, on a charge of cutting and wounding. The writ authorized the removal of the depositions of the witnesses to the chambers of the Lord Chief Justice. They were also served with a summons to appear before his lordship to show cause why they refused the bail. The hearing came on on Tuesday, when they were represented by a law agent; but in consequence of the depositions having been forwarded without the signatures of the magistrates, it was adjourned to Friday (yesterday), to allow time to correct the informality.

The pitmen held a large meeting at Tantoby, on Tuesday last, about 20,000 men being present, with music, banners, &c. Mr. Matthew Elliott, of Trimdon, was called to the chair. Mr. William Bird moved a resolution, referring to the ten weeks' strike, and the "many diabolical attempts of the masters," during its progress, to "make them submit to worse than Russian serfdom." In conclusion, the resolution pledged the pitmen to abide by the union.—Mr. William Bulmer seconded the resolution.—[At this stage of the proceedings, a troop of the 6th Dragoons came up, headed by R. S. Surtees, Esq., of Hamsterley, J.P. Mr. Surtees, the Hon. Capt. Jocelyn, and Lieut. Knox, rode up to the chairman—the pitmen clearing a road; and Mr. S. read an address, signed by himself and Peter Annandale, Esq., on that day, at the justice-room in Shotley Bridge, stating that complaints had been made of acts of outrage committed after the last meeting at Tantoby, and requesting that the men might be exhorted, on the present occasion, to disperse without disorder. Mr. Surtees said, there was no

Digitized by Google

intention to obstruct this or any other constitutional meeting: all that the magistrates desired was the maintenance of the peace.—Mr. Elliott thanked Mr. Surtees, and undertook that the peace should not be broken.—The gentlemen then retired.—Colonel Bradshaw, of the 37th Infantry, and Major Wemyss, Chief Constable, were at the outskirts of the meeting during the interview.]—The resolution was unanimously passed.—Then followed a resolution, condemnatory of the proposed monthly agreement of the coalowners, and pledging the miners to stand until the terms demanded by the union were acceded to in all the collieries.—This, on the motion of Mr. George Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Thomas Hay, was also unanimously adopted; together with a resolution binding the members of the association to settle all their debts after they got to work.—Two delegates, who had been to London and elsewhere, made a favourable report as to the reception they had experienced, but, so far, the amount of subscriptions was trifling.—The meeting separated in good order.—We gather the foregoing particulars of the meeting from the *Newcastle Chronicle*. A correspondent has written us on the subject as follows:—

When the intention of the pitmen to meet on Tanfield Moor, at the extreme north-west of the county of Durham, became generally known, the greatest alarm was entertained, on these grounds:—

1. Tanfield Moor being so far removed from the residence of any considerable number of pitmen, the great majority of those assembling were totally unknown to any one in the neighbouring villages.

2. There had been a general meeting held at the same place only the week previous, when various violent outrages were committed by large bodies of strangers on the persons and property of several of the men then working in Tanfield Moor and Tanfield Lea collieries; the owners of which, it may be as well to add, were the first to go to work with off-hand men, and also the first to turn out of their houses the men who refused to work.

On Monday evening, the village of Tantoby was surprised by the entry of nearly 100 men, from such places as Thornley, Trimdon, &c.; and on Tuesday morning, masses of pitmen were seen coming from all points of the compass to the place of meeting; and—(to the great alarm of the peaceable inhabitants of the village and the men at work)—nearly all of them were armed with bludgeons. By noon the number assembled could not have been under 14,000 or 15,000; and the utmost terror prevailed in Tantoby and Whitelee Head, as they forcibly entered the houses, insisting on being supplied with drink, &c. At this very critical juncture, the inhabitants were greatly rejoiced to see a troop of dragoons arrive; and shortly after an interview took place between the Chairman of the meeting and our manly and efficient Magistrate, R. S. Surtees, Esq., of Hamsterley Hall; upon which the troop was removed, and the meeting afterwards quietly dispersed.

The greatest gratitude is felt by those who were thus timely relieved from their alarm.

The pitmen who passed through Gateshead to the meeting, on Tuesday morning, had no very threatening appearance. Many of them, it is true, had (not bludgeons, but) walking-sticks—which they must have needed for their weary trudge.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GATESHEAD OBSERVER.

SIR,—You will oblige me by publishing the following in reply to two statements which appeared in your paper of last week—the one from the men of Waldridge colliery, stating that they were informed by their masters that their earnings were 16s. 10d. per week during 48 weeks. Such, I admit was the fact; but they were not told to multiply 16s. 10d. by 48 weeks, and divide by 52, in order to give their weekly earnings throughout the year. The 48 weeks was only from April, 1843, to March, 1844. The weekly earnings were taken on the average of the whole of the workmen (I mean those given in your paper of the 25th ult.)—and, I can confidently assert, with great exactness. I admit there was one working place in the pit (but only one) where the men did not earn more than 2s. in six hours; but as soon as they complained to me, they were paid consideration, so as to make them equal to other workmen. The reason of this place being hard, was from the influence of a slip-dyke.

The other statement is from R. Woodhouse and W. Winder, on behalf of the men of Team colliery, in reply to what they call "an erroneous statement," which appeared in your paper of the 25th ult. They, however, admit that they are not in possession of facts "to prove the statement erroneous." The average was very exactly taken, from the earnings of 12 workmen, from April, 1843, to April, 1844. They also state "that they were not restricted at this colliery, except during one fortnight." The fact is, they restricted themselves to 3s. 6d. per day, from June 13, 1843, to April, 1844; and during one fortnight of that time, they refused to work for more than 3s. per day. I may also state, that in consequence of this restriction I was obliged to employ 20 extra workmen. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Team Colliery, June 7, 1844. WILLIAM BARKUS, JUN.

THE COAL TRADE.

OBSERVATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE COAL-TRADE ON THE DISCUSSION RESPECTING THE DEMANDS OF THEIR LATE WORKMEN, INTRODUCED DURING THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION TO REPEAL THE EXPORT DUTY ON COALS.

THE remarks of the Honourable Member for Finsbury on the evening of the 4th inst., when he took occasion to introduce into Parliament the subject of the Pitmen's Strike, have, for the most part, been answered by anticipation in the Report of this Committee, published so long ago as the 27th of April. But there are some of the Honourable Gentleman's observations which the Committee cannot permit to pass unnoticed nor uncontradicted, on account of the place in which they were made—the wide circulation they will obtain through the medium of the public press—and, the Committee would have added, the unfair spirit in which they were uttered, but for the conviction entertained by them, that the Honourable Member had been misled by a want of proper and impartial information on the subject brought by him before the House of Commons. In commenting upon the Honourable Gentleman's statements, the Committee quote from his Speech as reported in the *Times* Newspaper; and, for the sake of clearness, they have arranged their observations side by side with his own.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE HON. MEMBER FOR FINSBURY.	ANSWER OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE COAL TRADE.
"The coalowners are unwilling to go into the causes which occasioned this strike."	In point of fact, the coalowners have not any such "unwillingness." As regards the causes of the strike, they are, it is conceived, the same with those which have occasioned strikes in other parts of the kingdom, namely, to increase the wages of the workmen, and, more particularly, in the present case, to abrogate the control of the masters over their own property.
"It was the masters who had struck—not the workpeople."	It is difficult for the Committee to understand the meaning of this statement. If it implies that the coalowners have forced a strike, by offering lower wages than were paid during the last year, this is contrary to the fact; for though the state of the trade would have justified a reduction, yet no such abatement has been made; the same prices for work having been proposed to the pitmen as were paid them under their previous engagement—that is to say, sufficient prices to enable the hewers to earn 3s. 8d. per day of eight hours' working, free and clear of all deductions. The desire of the coalowners to carry on their works is shown by the strenuous efforts they are making to supply the markets, by employing such hands as can be mustered. Already 1,975 men are at work, and the number is daily increasing.
"There was no question of wages involved. It was a question of the personal safety of the men. A system of bonds, too, had been introduced, which had been previously unknown."	The Committee experience great satisfaction in learning that the question is not one of wages; at the same time they cannot understand why, if no advance in wages is wanted, so great a one has been asked, as amounts, on the average, to at least 58 per cent. on the last year's prices; and in particular cases, to so much that the collieries where it is demanded must altogether cease working from inability to grant it. Even the pitmen themselves, who do not seem to know very well what they have asked, make it appear in a published document that a considerable advance is required, though in reality their statement is very much short of the truth. As regards the safety of the men, the Committee are well aware, that in no part of Great Britain are coal-mines conducted on superior, or even equally skilful principles, as compared with those of Northumberland and Durham; and, in fact, more lives have been lost, not merely in a single storm at sea, but in a single shipwreck, than have been sacrificed in the entire mines of this district during the last fourteen years. Lest there should be any mistake on this point, which has been so much dwelt upon, the Committee have it in their power to state, from documents published by the pitmen themselves, that the annual average loss of life from accidents in the mines, has been no more than 1½ per 1,000 per annum, during the period in question. It is difficult to select an occupation in which fewer casualties occur;

Digitized by Google

and it ought to be remembered, in reference to accidents of a minor character, that scarcely any other class of labouring men have the privileges of smart money, medical attendance, house, and fire, which are possessed by pitmen during the time they are suffering from misfortunes, which as frequently happen from their own want of precaution, as from any other cause.

The new system of bonds alluded to by the honourable gentleman, has been forced upon the coalowners by the treatment they have experienced from their workmen during 11 months out of 12 of the last term of hiring. So early as May, 1843, the hewers began to restrict their labour, contrary to the letter and spirit of the agreements; which provide that a workman "shall perform a full and fair day's work, according to each man's ability; such day's work not to exceed eight hours." So far from this reasonable and moderate requisition being complied with, the pitmen restricted themselves to an amount of work which on the average of the trade could be performed by a diligent workman in five or at the utmost six hours in the day; the object being, to check the supply, and to take advantage of the consequent rise in price, in order to enforce their demands. While this scheme proceeded, an attorney was engaged by the pitmen, who made it his business to raise actions and commence chancery suits upon the yearly bond, and to conduct the affairs of the workman in such a manner as plainly to evince, that the coalowners could no longer submit to an instrument which, while it was binding upon them, was, as events had fully proved, of no effect as regarded their workmen. It was determined, therefore, for these and for other reasons, which the Committee have fully explained in their Report, to engage the latter in a manner similar to that in which labourers and mechanics are hired in manufactories, and it may be said, in the mining districts of the kingdom generally; for the Committee are not aware that coal-hewers are hired for a service of 12 months in any other part of Great Britain; and, by consequence, in none of the latter districts are the owners harassed by lawyers especially employed for the purpose of annoying them. The superiority in the condition of the coal-miners of Northumberland and Durham has been heretofore most strongly marked. They have had better wages and more comfortable dwellings than other labourers of the same class elsewhere. The coalowners hope and believe that this distinction in favour of their workmen will continue; but should it be otherwise, they appeal to the explanation which has been given as to whether they or the pitmen will be to blame for such a result.

"The workmen declared that they were willing to submit all the disputed points to a fair arbitration. Would the masters meet the proposal? If not, could it be doubted they were in the wrong?"

Assuming what the honourable member for Finsbury does not however seem willing to grant, that the question at issue is mainly one of wages, the Committee do not consider it necessary to answer the rapid succession of questions thus put by the honourable gentleman. They may however remark, that even supposing the principle to be admitted, it is absurd to think of carrying it out practically, by endeavouring to arbitrate on the affairs of more than 120 collieries, employing upwards of 30,000 workmen. Not only would it be requisite to have as many arbitrations as there are collieries, but with respect to every colliery as many questions would have to be adjusted as there are different classes of workmen. The suggestion must have proceeded on the supposition that the strike depended on some question common to the whole trade, and is clearly inapplicable to the existing state of things involving so wide a range of local differences and character.

"But what were the other grounds of conflict? One was that the coal was measured instead of being weighed. The workmen said that this arrangement was unfair—that they had a right to have their work weighed; and they demanded that this arrangement should be enforced. Why, was there any thing so very wrong in this? It was only a year or two ago that the system of measuring coal in London was altered at the instigation of the coalowners themselves; simply because, as they said, and truly said, the measurement plan was unfair to all parties. If the coalowners then insisted upon selling their coals by weight, what reason was there why they should not remunerate their labourers by estimating the work done by a similar test?"

It is remarkable that the honourable gentleman does not know that the system of weight which he recommends so emphatically, in preference to that of measure, is precisely that which is being practised, and has been for a long time in use at the majority of collieries in the trade, and which, at its first introduction, was reluctantly agreed to by the pitmen themselves. The Committee see no objection whatever to the plan of weight being generally adopted, especially if that of measure is considered to be "unfair to *all* parties," in which latter case they confess their inability to perceive how its continuance can be favourable to the coalowners. The Committee while on this subject would beg to remind the honourable gentleman, that the Act of Parliament substituting weight for measure in the sale of coals, was passed, not a year or two ago, but nearly 13 years ago, namely, in October, 1831.

"All they asked was, that inspectors should be appointed to see that the mines were made safe, and that the subject of fines should be properly and equitably regulated. Why, how was justice dealt out under the present system? Sometimes a man might employ himself a whole fortnight, and yet, in consequence of the operation of the fines, find himself in debt at the end of that time, instead of being in receipt of a fair equivalent for his labour."

This statement is not incorrect, provided the workmen choose, as they have done for particular purposes, to inflict those penalties upon themselves, which it is their interest, as well as that of the coalowner, that they should avoid. Under any other circumstances, the idea of a man finding himself in debt at the end of the fortnight is nonsense: the real fact is, as has been shown long ago, that the fines amount to one halfpenny per day per man on the average throughout the trade.

"A system, too, existed with regard to payments, which was most unjust to the men. Why were not the payments made weekly? At present the men were only paid every fortnight, and even then a week's pay was kept back. (Hear, hear.) By this means, if a man entered a work, for the first three weeks he received no wages at all, and at the expiration of that period only received two weeks' pay."

The Committee are confident that if the honourable gentleman reconsiders the subject, he will be aware that the circumstances here mentioned, (and the extreme case is put,) is of no importance to the coalowner, who has exactly the same amount of wages to pay, whether they are settled immediately or after the lapse of some days. The only reason for having "running-on days," as they are technically called, is to give time to the overman, hewer, and owners to make out and examine the accounts—a matter not so simple as the honourable gentleman may suppose, when it is considered that the wages of, it may be, some hundreds of people are to be settled, nearly all of whom are at work by the piece, and who are to be arranged and agreed with accordingly. The bare inspection of an overman's bill, on a large colliery, would convince the honourable member that it requires nearly a week's labour to draw it out properly and without error. That the contrary has been stated, is only a specimen of the vexatious and frivolous objections which have been raised against the coalowners in regard to the management of their own concerns—a line of proceeding which they are unanimously determined to tolerate no longer. Their workmen have been hitherto better paid than those of any similar class in Great Britain; and if they are resolved to sink themselves to the same level with others, the coalowners may regret, but cannot prevent the natural consequences of such conduct.

Coal Trade Office, Newcastle-upon-Tyne,
June 13th, 1844.

THE NEWCASTLE TOWN COUNCIL.

The Council met on Wednesday, June 12th.—Margaret Rawling, aged 63, was elected from among 30 candidates to a vacancy in Jesus' Hospital.

Mr. Plummer presented a Report from the Trade and Commerce Committee:—

We, the Committee on Trade and Commerce, beg to lay before the Council a few observations on the subject of erecting sheds and laying down a railway on the quay, in addition to those contained in our Report on that subject now before the Council.

In our former Report, after recommending a railway or tramroad communication to be made along the quay, to facilitate the transportation of goods from one berth to another, and with the view of its being

Digitized by Google

at some future period connected with the railway-stations now formed or hereafter to be formed, within the borough, we adverted to the width of the quay, which in some parts might seem too contracted to admit of the project being carried out, without materially encroaching upon the present carriage-way. Since presenting the said Report, it has been found necessary to make an actual survey of the quay; and it has thereby been ascertained that sufficient space for a railway, suitable for all the purposes contemplated, can be obtained within the present line of chains, for very nearly the entire length of the quay, thereby leaving the carriage-way free and uninterrupted as at present, excepting for a short distance, commencing opposite Pallister's-chare, and running west, without interfering with the facilities for loading and unloading, and the mooring of vessels.

The cost of laying a line of railway, extending from the east end of the new quay, on the East, to the Tyne-bridge on the West, is estimated at £700; and the annual expenditure required to keep it in repair, at about £50.

From information which has been laid before the Committee, it appears that about 20,640 tons of goods are now carried annually between the quay and the Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Carlisle railway-stations; and it is estimated that were those places connected by railway, the annual saving in the present rates of carriage would be at least £1,000—a consideration of immense importance, when viewed in connection with the port as a port of transit, and one which will greatly and rapidly increase when the town receives the advantage of further railway communication.

A plan of the quay, showing the line of railway and the sheds recommended to be made, together with a Report from the Engineer, accompany this Report. The cost of erecting the four sheds, numbered 1, 3, 4, and 5, on the said plan, is estimated at the average sum of £114 per shed. The larger shed, No. 7, on the new quay, will cost about £200.

These sheds are laid down upon a line which will admit of their being continued hereafter, with uniformity of construction, to any extent that may be found desirable. They are much required, and we trust the Council will order that immediate steps be taken for their being erected.

It is not proposed at present to erect the sheds numbered 6 and 8.

ROBERT PLUMMER.
MATTHEW PLUES.
ALEXANDER GEORGE GRAY.
T. R. BATSON.
JOHN THOMAS CARR.
T. W. KEENLYSIDE.

Mr. PLUES seconded Mr. Plummer's motion that the Report be confirmed.

An amendment, moved by Mr. Ald. DUNN, and seconded by Mr. Ald. POTTER, to defer the consideration of the Report to the close of the financial year, was negatived on a show of hands, and the original motion carried.

The confirmation of a Report recommending that Mr. Thomas Salmon have leave to lay down moorings at South Shields, was deferred—Mr. HUNTER contending (very properly) that the Corporation should provide moorings.

On the motion of Mr. ARMSTRONG, the Council confirmed a Report from the River Committee, recommending that £750 be granted to the owners of Killingworth and Burradon collieries, to enable them to extend their gears at Wallsend—their elongation being rendered necessary by the improvements of the Corporation, and law-proceedings having been threatened.

Mr. Ald. DUNN presented the Treasurer's accounts for the Midsummer quarter, the payments amounting to £8,381 7s.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee (Aldermen Dunn and Nichol) were appointed to attend the ensuing meeting of the Durham Junction Railway Company, the Corporation being shareholders to the extent of £5,000.—Mr. Ald. HODGSON observed, that the shares in the Newcastle and Darlington Railway were quoted at 28 per cent. premium: its proprietors, therefore, in his opinion, should pay a premium on the shares of the Durham Junction, if they became the purchasers of the line.—The TOWN CLERK said, the proposed price, he believed, was below par.

Mr. Ald. NICHOL presented a Report from the Finance Committee, recommending compliance with the proposal of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway Company, viz., to erect their new station on the *south* side of Neville-street.—Confirmed.

Mr. ARMSTRONG presented a Report from the River Committee, recommending that the Corporation Engineer have an addition to his salary of £50 a-year, in consideration of additional duties, and of his non-superintendence of works undertaken by third parties, in which the Corporation is interested.

The TOWN CLERK read a letter from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, regretting that they could not render any assistance in augmenting the vicar's income. [The income of the worthy vicar being, in the opinion of Churchmen, far too limited, they have an excellent opportunity of exhibiting the sincerity of their convictions, and of marking their attachment to the Church, and to the vicar who ministers to them in spiritual things, by raising a voluntary subscription, and handsomely endowing the reverend gentleman and his successors.]

Letters were read from the promoters of the rival Regattas, and it was agreed to grant £5 to the one above bridge, and £5 to the one at Shields.

When several members of the Council had expressed their high opinion of Mr. John Bell's plans of the northern coal-field, now in course of publication, it was resolved that the Corporation should become a subscriber to the valuable work.

Mr. HENRY TURNER moved, "That a Committee be appointed to obtain information as to the best means of bringing into town the intended line of railway from London to Edinburgh by the east coast." But the Council resolved, instead, "That the Town Improvement Committee be instructed to watch the proceedings of the railway companies."

On the motion of Mr. KEENLYSIDE, seconded by Mr. HARLE, it was resolved, that the wool-fair be held on the *second* of July, (Stagshawbank fair occurring on third); also, that a wool-market be held every Tuesday, immediately after the corn-market, up to October; and, in future years, on every Tuesday from May to October.

Mr. Ald. DUNN stated that there were two petitions for Sir Thomas White's loans; and after the sums now in hand were disposed of, there would be none at the command of the Council until 1846.

NEWCASTLE AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY.

OPENING OF AN UNINTERRUPTED LINE OF RAILWAY FROM THE THAMES TO THE TYNE.

THE strong SAXON spirit of GEORGE STEPHENSON, the "Heugist of Railways," is a Spirit of the Age that has written a work whereon those who ride may read glad tidings of man's rescue from the bondage and thraldom of ignorance—of his power of unison with his fellows for the purpose of conquering and civilizing the earth, reclaiming its swamps and morasses, and adding to its beauties. Prometheus, in the elder mythus, brought fire from heaven to earth for man's uses. GEORGE STEPHENSON may be the hero of some future mythus, which will tell how he harnessed fire to chariots of iron, which became swifter than the winds of heaven. * * FARADAY is the representative of the power which, in all ages, has sought to gather nature's secrets for man's uses; and ROTHSCHILD is the representative of the great power-accumulators of the world, the hoarded labour of mankind, ever on the increase, till at last it shall grow to a surplus, when men will rest from their work, and say, "It is good." Many a weary day is before us, before we obtain that desirable end, but the time will come.—*Westminster Review, June*, 1844.

THE "great fact" of the present week, and one of the greatest of our day and generation, has been the opening of the Newcastle and Darlington Junction Railway, whereby an uninterrupted line of railway-communication has been opened from London to Newcastle. Devoting our chief attention to this event—so important to us, locally, and to our fellow-countrymen, nationally—we have left ourselves neither time nor space to notice otherwise than briefly the other occurrences of the week, whether within or without the walls of parliament; but we trust to stand excused for the decision to which we have come, in the midst of contending claims; and that we shall not be blamed for treating almost with neglect the debates on the "sugar-duties," when it is considered how comparatively small will be *their* importance in the time to come—how vast the importance of the work which Tuesday, June 18, 1844, saw completed and commemorated, in all time coming!

Before reporting the proceedings of the day, it will not be unappropriate, and it may not be unacceptable, if we look back

Digitized by Google

on the times of our forefathers, and review their modes of travelling—the appliances placed at their command, and the rates at which they journeyed from town to town in the little island to which they gave renown.

It would appal the mere newspaper-reader—who dislikes length, and loves variety—if we were to carry him back to the invasion of England by JULIUS CÆSAR, and to the erection at Gateshead of the most northern "station" of the Romans, when as yet the Tyne was unspanned by a viaduct, and Newcastle had no existence; and thence to bring him down, step by step, to the invasion of our ancient borough by GEORGIUS HUDSON, and the erection of the most northern and most magnificent "station" of the "Railway Napoleon," within a few yards of the *Capræ Caput* of the Roman roadmakers!

Contenting ourselves, therefore, with this bare allusion to the two "stations" of the Italian and the Yorkshire Cæsars, and leaving to others the task of pursuing the curious historical parallel which they present, we will commence our narrative in the sixteenth century, when coaches were unknown in England, and "Good Queen Bess" rode, on "state occasions," behind her chamberlain.

An envelope—(still, we believe, extant)—bears the address of a letter dispatched on horseback by Lord Burleigh, in the sixteenth century, from London to Berwick, and the receipts of the parties through whose hands it passed on the road, as follows:—

"To sir Raff Sadler and sir James Crofts, Knights, at Barwicke, W. Cecill, for liff, liff, liff, 30th of November, at Westminster.

"Received at Styelton the ii. day of December, at six o'clock at night.

"Received at Neverke, the io. of December, at ix. of the clock at nite.

"Received at ——— the vii. day of December, at iii. of the clocke at afternoon.

"Received at Newcastle, the viii. of December, xi. of the clocke before noon."

Before the close of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, coaches were introduced into her dominions; and about the year 1625, when James the First was drawing near his end, vehicles were "let out to hire." But it was not until long afterwards that stage-coaches were introduced. Travellers made their journeys on foot or on horseback, nor were there roads through the island for any other sort of transit. Our antiquarian neighbour, Mr. John Bell, of Gateshead, the land-surveyor, has kindly favoured us with the loan of a London newspaper of 1647, printed in a small quarto form, which curiously illustrates our present subject. It is an interesting sample of the periodical political literature of our ancestors; and we have the pleasure of enriching our columns with a *fac simile* of the wood-engraving which adorns the first page of our forerunner's journal, and also with a few extracts from his letterpress. The "newsman" on his stout horse, blowing his horn to proclaim at once his approach and his importance, affords a strange contrast to the "railway-train" of the nineteenth century. The former occupied *ten* DAYS on his trip from London to Edinburgh: the other travels from London to Newcastle in *ten* HOURS!

THE LONDON POST,

Communicating the High Counsels of both Parliaments in *England* and *Scotland*, and all other Remarkable Passages, both Civill and Martiall, in his Weekly Travells through the Three Kingdoms.

Printed and entred according to order.

From Thursday, January the 28, to Thursday, February 4, 1647.

THE great businesse is now concluded, and what forraigne kingdoms have so long attended, and almost stood on tiptoe to behold, this weeke hath brought to passe; which is, the King [Charles I.] restored into those hands that are intrusted by his Parliament to receive him, and safe in the power and happinesse of their arms. It is now about five weekes since the beginning of the new yeare; and it is now about five yeares and five weekes since the beginning of the late warre; for although that, at the departure of the King, Peace did not seeme to take her departure from this island, yet for all the pretences that were made to court her, the plott was then laid, and the prologue spoken, for the ensuing warre. A war it was which filled our eares with horrour and alarmes, as the eares of our neighbours

Digitized by Google

with amazement; and which (had not God prevented) had endeavoured to have covered the face of this kingdome, and her people in it, with fire and bloud.

This war had carried the King almost to the farthest part of his kingdome in the west, and almost to the farthest part of the English dominions in the north. "He goes far indeed," 'tis said, "that never returnes." But his Majesty is returning, and he is returning to his Parliament. His way doth lead him directly towards it, and so doth his honourable convoy with him. Nothing comes from him of complaint that carryes compulsion with it, nor doth any too forward sigh prompt him to looke back on any mistaken priviledges in the north, or forgotten recreations at *Newcastle*.

He cannot complaine for want of roome, who may command three kingdomes. Now, wheresoever he doth travell, he is still in his owne; for although he stood in his own way and light before, he is now in a moving and a clearer posture, and is every day more neere and neere unto his Parliament.

And indeed both reason and judgement doe perswade me that it is no impossible taske to convince the King to take the Covenant; for although that great philosophers have affirmed that men borne in that climate are intractable in their tempers, yet I observe that reformation in religion is a peculiar worke of God, a worke begun by Him in the dayes of King *Edward*, advanced in the dayes of Queen *Elizabeth*, established in the dayes of King *James*, and to be compleated now in the dayes of King *Charles*. So great a labour, and so many ages, it hath asked to shake off the nation and the obligation of *Rome*.

Here we pause for a moment in our extract, to indulge in a laugh at our defunct friend, the "London Post;" who, were he now in a condition to peep in upon the world (as perhaps he is), would find this plaguy "Rome" still riding on the neck of the English Church, like poor Sinbad's adhesive companion, the "old man of the sea." Our politico-religious predecessor proceeds as follows:—

The two first examples are highly and everywhere to be confirmed. I will onely begin with the two latter, which doe seeme to the people to inferre a paradox. Before that I was indebted to nature for light, King *James* had either made or authorized a booke called *Deus et Rex*, the subject whereof was religion to God and allegiance to the King. The reformation of these times doe onely proceed to perfect that worke; and the King being to be draune more neere unto his people, what before was *Deus et Rex*, which is *God and the King*, is now no more than *Rex et Populus cum Deo*; which is *the King and the People with God*; and this, in few words, is the whole interpretation of the Covenant.

This being rightly apprehended, surely it is possible enough that his Majesty will be pleased to follow his father's example, and improve it, and will accomplish a worke so well begun. I find that every age of late hath made some gradation to, especially this; and I doubt not but this will see it accomplished. And then, where art thou in thy study that art full of *Rome*, and peradventure learning enough? Or where art thou in the field, or in the garden, that art desperately ignorant, and dost presume on inspirations? I doe find that there is an unhappy translation sometimes from armes unto religion. *Loyola* in this is example enough, whose *alumni* have filled the world with bloud and blasphemy, and have made it their religion to warme their accursed steele in the blood of Kings.

But oh, thrice-happy nation, which hath an excellent Parliament at home, and in the field an excellent Generall, by which meanes wee have better men and better manners. It is the wisdome of our Parliament and Generall to labour to reduce all unto soundnesse of knowledge, and peace, and order; which is the next way to reduce man (as farre as man is capable of it), and to bring him neere unto God himselfe.

This extract, which may be called the "leading article" of the newspaper, occupies, with the engraving, nearly three of the eight pages. The remainder of the number is devoted to the news of the week, arranged under the different days. One or two passages we will proceed to quote—the first showing that Ireland, then as now, was ill at ease, and kept in subjection by the sword:—

Thursday, January 28.

It was ordered [by the Parliament] that assessments for *Ireland* should be continued over all this kingdome, as well on the other side of *Trent* as on this side of it.

It was also ordered that fourteen hundred pound, part of the five thousand pound raised for the service of *Dublin*, and brought back by Major *Salloway* by reason of the unfaithfull dealing of the Marquesse of *Ormond*, shall be forthwith sent again into *Ireland*, for the relief of the Parliament's forces in that kingdome.

And this day the Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland* himself did take his leave of the House, and on Monday next doth take his journey towards *Bristoll*; and from thence, with what speed he can, he will put to sea for Ireland.

It was ordered that such members of the House as have not taken the Covenant do take it on Monday morning next, and the Sergeant-at-Arms is to give notice thereof to such members as have not taken it.

By letters from *Dublin* it was advertised that the severall parties which the Marquis of *Ormond* did send forth are returned to *Dublin*, and that they have brought some booty with them out of the rebells' quarters.

Friday, January 29.

The House of Commons did spend this whole day in debate of persons that undertake to preach without being in orders.

Saturday, January 30.

This day the House of Commons did sit in a grand committee concerning the pay of the soldiery of the kingdome.

Letters were brought from our Commissioners at *Newcastle*, certifying that they came to *Newcastle* on Saturday last, and had very good respect given them; and that the King appointed to heare them on Monday, at nine of the clock in the morning, what they had to say from the Parliament; and it was believed that he would come with them to *Holmby*; and that as upon this present Saturday the Scots are to deliver up *Newcastle*, which no doubt they will perform accordingly; and on Monday it is to be conceived that the King will be left with our Commissioners, if not on his journey towards *Holmby*.

It was ordered that the messenger who brought these letters from *Newcastle* should have given him twenty pounds.

Before the coming away of this last post, the Scots had abandoned the garrisons of *Hartlepool*,

Digitized by Google

Stockton, and *Durham*, and really expresse themselves as willing to be gone now as when their armies were last in *England*. *Tuesday, February* 2.

It was this day voted by the House of Commons, that any person or persons that shall take upon him or them to preach publickly without orders, shall for the first offence indure one month's imprisonment, and for the second offence two months' imprisonment, and for the third offence a whole yeare's imprisonment.

A passage or two forgotten in the intelligence of the foregoeing day, I will insert in this; which is, that our Commissioners at their comming were wellcommed by the canons from the ships, and from some forts at *Newcastle*. The letters doe expresse that the discipline of the Scots army is very good, and much to be commended.

The Holland ship rideth still in *Tinmouth* water: two frigots of the Parliament's doe anchor very neere her. It is likely now that she will suddainely hoyst up sailes and begon; and on the first faire wind our two frigots will steere more northwards to our ships which lye at Leith, not far from Edinborough. *Wednesday, February* 3.

The House of Commons had this day a debate concerning the declaration of the House of Peeres, of which in my next I shall be allowed to give a more full account.

By letters from *Newcastle*, directed to persons of honour, it was advertised that the King propounded to the Commissioners that amongst other servants (to wait in ordinary upon his person) he might be allowed some of his old chaplains to be with him. The Commissioners answered him that his Majesty should not want for able divines.

The King this day sets forth from *Newcastle*. He should have begun his journey yesterday, which was Tuesday; but his attendants could not so quickly be provided with things necessary: therefore the countrey is summoned to send in horses and teams for the carriage of the goods and moveables.

The price charged for the *London Post* does not appear on the copy belonging to Mr. Bell (which, by the bye, is No. IV.); but the *Norwich Postman*, another of our early English newspapers, was offered for sale at a penny per number; the publisher naïvely adding, however, that "a halfpenny would not be refused!"

In what year the hornblowers on horseback were superseded by hornblowers on coaches, we are unable to state. A lively writer in the *Quarterly Review* observes:—

"It is difficult to determine the exact period at which a stage-coach first appeared upon the road, but it seems to be pretty well ascertained that in 1662 there were but six; and one of the wise men of those days, John Crossell, of the Charter House, tried his best to write them down. It was supposed he had the countenance of the country-gentlemen, who were afraid, if their wives could get easily and cheaply conveyed to London, they might not settle so well afterwards to their duties at the hall or the grange."

Arnot, in his *History of Edinburgh* (1788), affirms, on the authority of the "Northumberland Household Book," that "coaches were first introduced into Britain A.D. 1580."

"A coach," he says, "is mentioned as coming to Scotland in the suite of the English ambassador, A.D. 1598. But the first introduction of these carriages for the use of the people was in the year 1610. At that time, Henry Anderson, an inhabitant of Trail Sound, or Stralsund, in Pomerania, offered to bring from that country coaches and waggons, *with horses to draw, and servants to attend them*, provided an exclusive privilege of keeping these carriages was secured to him. To this effect a royal patent was granted him, conferring an exclusive privilege, for fifteen years, of keeping coaches to run between Edinburgh and Leith; for it was only for these towns that this vehicle seems then to have been intended; and it was not allowable to take more than twopence sterling for the fare of each passenger. Coaches and six were first introduced into England A.D. 1619, by the upstart Villiers Duke of Buckingham, the worthless minion of two successive sovereigns, [who also introduced sedan chairs]. The Earl of Northumberland was so much offended with this instance of Buckingham's vanity, that he ordered eight horses to be put to his own coach. By the end of the seventeenth century, coaches and chariots were pretty much used by the Scots nobility; but they were chiefly designed for the town, not for the road."

The "ease" with which the matrons of the seventeenth century performed their trips, is alluded to by the *Quarterly Reviewer*. This may be judged of from the advertisements of the eighteenth century, when many improvements had been made on the vehicles of the seventeenth.

At the Black Swan in York, a handbill is preserved to this day, which makes an announcement in the following words:—

"York four-days stage-coach begins on Friday, the 12th of April, 1706. All that are desirous to pass from London to York, or from York to London, or any other place on that road, let them repair to the Black Swan in Holborn, in London, and to the Black Swan in Coney-street, in York; at both which places they may be received in a stage-coach every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, which performs the whole journey in four days (if God permits), and sets forth at five in the morning; and returns from York to Stamford in two days, and from Stamford, by Huntingdon, to London, in two days more; and the like stages on their return."

In 1712, an advertisement appeared in the *Newcastle Courant*, of which we insert a copy:—

"Edinbro', Berwick, Newcastle, Durham, and London stage-coach, begins on Monday, the 13th of October, 1712. All that desire to pass from Edinbro' to London, or any place on that road, let them repair to Mr. John Baillie's, at the Coach and Horses, at the head of Canongate, Edinbro', every other Saturday; or to the Black Swan in Holborn, every other Monday; at both of which places they may be received in the stage-coach, which performs the whole journey in *thirteen* days, without any stoppages, (if God permit,) having eighty able horses to perform the whole journey; each passenger paying *four pounds ten shillings*, allowing each passenger 20lb of luggage: all above, sixpence per lb. The coach sets off at six o'clock in the morning."

In a little volume by the Rev. James Murray, minister of the Highbridge chapel in Newcastle, published in 1773, the reverend author describes in a pleasant vein a journey which he made to the metropolis—at the time that Tyne bridge was down, and the only passage was by a ferry, which crossed from Sandgate to the South Shore. Mr. Murray set off by coach on a summer's morning; and the vehicle, laden with passengers, was ferried across the river in a boat, "the most tiresome and heavy ever invented." The "ponderous ferry" was manned by four rowers, under the command of "a little arbitrary bashaw," who made his customers "wait his pleasure." Nearly an hour was consumed in the passage! "Some ladies," says the jocose divine, "were so hurried at starting that they had not time to say their prayers. *This was a good opportunity*. As soon as we landed on the south side of the Tyne, we were saluted by a blackbird, which welcomed us to the county of Durham!"

At the end of the first stage, the travellers halted, and sat down to a cup of tea. They then jogged off to Durham, where they remained long enough to visit all the "lions"—the cathedral, the woods, and the pleasant walks by the Wear. They also refreshed themselves with "mine host" of the inn.

The next town named by Mr. Murray is Grantham—where they arrived in the evening of the second day. After an early supper, he went to the theatre; and returning home at 11 o'clock, he betook himself to bed. At 2 in the morning he was roused from sleep; "which (he says) was much too soon; but having paid £3 8s. 6d. for a seat from Newcastle to London, he would have been a fool to lose it, and so got up." At the end of the second stage, they had breakfast; and they reached London at a late hour in the night.

Thus it was that a journey to London was performed 70 years ago—the travellers proceeding leisurely through the day, and "putting-in" at night to some comfortable haven.

At that time, "springs," we believe, had not been invented, and passengers could not endure quick motion, nor a long-protracted ride. The roads, too, were not so smooth as M'Adam afterwards made them. Smollett, who flourished in the middle of the last century, remarks:—

"Considering the tax we pay for turnpikes, the roads of this country constitute a most intolerable grievance. Between Newark and Wetherby, I have suffered more from jolting and swinging than ever I felt in the whole course of my life."

Travelling in the night was not safe in those days—which was another argument in favour of halting at sunset. An advertisement of 1782 runs as follows:—

"The Leeds and Newcastle Diligence, (by way of Durham, Darlington, Northallerton, Ripon, and Harrogate,) sets out from Mr. Hall's, the Cock inn, Head of the Side, Newcastle, every evening about seven o'clock (Saturdays excepted): arrives at the Star and Garter inn, in Leeds, every afternoon about four; where it meets the London, Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Sheffield, Litchfield, Worcester, Glou-

Digitized by Google

cester, Bristol, Manchester, Chester, and Liverpool coaches and diligences, which go out every day.

Fare from Newcastle to Leeds	£1	5	0
Fare from Newcastle to Birmingham	1	7	6
Fare from Newcastle to London (by Leeds)	2	10	0

The Leeds carriage arrives in London about four o'clock every afternoon, Sundays excepted; by which means *the danger of travelling in the night near the metropolis would be avoided.*"

Here is another of 1783:—

"LONDON AND NEWCASTLE DILIGENCE, in *four days* during the winter-season, (by way of Weatherby and Boroughbridge, which is seven miles nearer than by way of York,) sets out from Mr. Ibbetson's, the George and Blue Boar inn, London, and from Mr. Brodie's, the Turk's Head, in Newcastle, every day, at seven o'clock in the morning. To carry three inside passengers, each to be allowed 14lb of luggage, and to pay three guineas for the whole distance, or threepence a mile for any part of the road. * * From London will lie the first night at Bugden, the second at Tuxford, the third at Northallerton, and at the same places from Newcastle to London; by which means they will arrive both at London and Newcastle early in the afternoon. Performed by Brodie, Newcastle; Richardson, Durham; Burnett, Darlington; Hirst, Northallerton; Fretwell, Boroughbridge," &c., &c.

Still later—(in 1787)—we find the coach-proprietors offering their customers a remedy in cases of over-fatigue on the road—thus:—

"The *Royal Charlotte*, London, Newcastle, and Edinburgh new light post-coach, with a guard, as expeditious as the mail-coach, sets out from Brodie's, the Turk's Head, Newcastle, and Ibbetson's, the George and Blue Boar, Holborn, every evening at twelve o'clock, and arrives in London and Newcastle the second day, and in Edinburgh early on the third day. * * Fare from Newcastle to London, £3 11s.—From London to Edinburgh, £5 5s.—Short passengers from Newcastle to Edinburgh, and from Edinburgh to Newcastle, 4½d. per mile.—Outsides, 2d. per mile. * * ☞ Passengers taking their places from London to Edinburgh, or from Edinburgh to London, may, on finding the journey too fatiguing, rest a day, and have their place in the next coach."

The present fare from London to Newcastle, is £4 3s. by the first-class carriages, and £2 18s. by the second-class, the time consumed on the road being twelve hours and a half.

A newspaper advertisement, published in 1789, promises a bed at Berwick, in a journey from Newcastle to Edinburgh:—

"TRAVELLING FROM NEWCASTLE TO EDINBURGH, BY WAY OF BERWICK, (every day, Sundays excepted).—A light-carriage will set off from Mr. Charles Turner's, the Queen's Head inn, Newcastle, on Wednesday, the 1st of April, at six o'clock in the morning; arrives at Berwick at six o'clock in the evening, where it remains all night, and reaches Edinburgh next day to dinner. Sets out from Mr. M'Farlin's inn, South Bridge, Edinburgh, at the same hour, and arrives at Newcastle the following day to dinner. Inside fare to Edinburgh, £1 16s. Outside to ditto, £1.—Short passengers, 4d. per mile."

Those persons who "stand by the ancient ways," and mourn over the modern innovation of railroads, are many of them ignorant, perhaps, that we have not a turnpike road a hundred and fifty years old! The rebellions of 1715 and 1745 (good coming out of evil) led to the formation of many of our early roads for military purposes; and the civil advantages which they conferred on the country induced the construction of others.

Down to the year 1756, Newcastle and Carlisle were connected only by a bridle-road; and within the memory of living man pack-horses were a principal means of conveying merchandise from town to town—the "luggage trains" of the last century:—

"The Yorkshire foxhunter (says a modern writer), going to or returning from his sport, will occasionally find himself on a flagged pathway, flanked on either side with an abyss of mud, and only wide enough to admit of progress in single file. This is the pack-horse road of our ancestors; and except the occasional semblance of the animal itself with its load displayed on village signs, (things as retentive of odd bygone facts as the picture-writing of the Mexicans,) is now the only memorial of a mode of communication which in the memory of man was hardly superseded by the waggon and the coach. The latter machines, doubtless, still survive; but many a tinkling peal of bells was silenced—many a set of dock-tailed horses, with their accoutrements of tinted worsted—put in abeyance by Brindley; and many a four-horse coach has since been slapped into fly-s and station omnibuses by the harlequin wands of the Brunels and Stephensons."

The "tinkling peal" of the pack-horse is heard no more, and Time and *Train* have now silenced the stage-coach horn. In our last number, Messrs. Loftus & Radford, subdued by all-conquering Steam, were advertising the sale of their celebrated coaching-stud.

Nineteen years only have elapsed since the opening of the first passenger-railway—the Stockton and Darlington:—and now, by the completion of the Newcastle and Darlington Junction, a railway-communication has been established, without interruption, from the "Great Metropolis" to the "Metropolis of the North!" and the "occupation" of the coach-horse is "gone."

The "coach-horse" itself, we may here observe, is of comparatively modern date, being nothing more than an overgrown hunter, called into existence by the stage-coach system of the last century.

The rise and progress of the Railway and the Locomotive is a tempting theme, but we must forbear; or we might trace the progress of railways from their colliery-rudiments, in the seventeenth century, to the time when, in 1824, Mr. Chapman recommended the construction of a line from Newcastle to Carlisle, and pledged himself to a speed of from 3½ to 4 miles an hour! Indeed, he assured Sir James Graham, that he had seen a locomotive travelling on the Hetton railway at the rate of from 4½ to 5 miles an hour; but he confessed that this was on a slightly descending line!

We must turn, however, from these locomotive exploits to the latest triumph of Steam, achieved in the present week, on the occasion of the opening of the Newcastle and Darlington line.

But first we will quote a few facts "worth knowing" from the *Durham Advertiser*. They are as follows:—

"The Newcastle and Darlington Railway has been constructed in an unexampled short period, and at an unprecedented low cost, considering the rough surface of the country over which it passes. The royal assent to the act for its formation was only obtained on the 18th of June, 1842, and the earthwork has averaged 70,000 cubic yards per mile, yet it is now complete at a cost of less than £15,000 per mile, including purchase of land, works, materials, and stations, (the corresponding average cost of great trunk lines of railway through the kingdom having amounted to considerably more than double that sum).

"By the completion of this undertaking, a direct railway communication will be formed between the metropolis and the valleys of the Wear and Tyne, containing a population of 250,000 souls; and the Scotch traveller will be set down at Newcastle, 110 miles from Edinburgh, in 12½ hours after leaving the station at Euston-square; having passed over 83 miles of the London and Birmingham Railway to Rugby, 49¼ miles of the Midland Counties Railway to Derby, 63½ miles of the North Midland Railway to Normanton, and 23¾ miles of the York and North Midland Railway to York; from thence along the Great North of England Railway 45 miles to Darlington; the Newcastle, Darlington, and Durham Junction Railway, 27½ miles to Washington: 5½ miles of the Pontop and South Shields (Stanhope and Tyne) Railway to Brockley Whins; and 6½ miles of the Brandling Junction Railway to the superb new station in Greene's-field, Gateshead.

"The gradients of the Newcastle and Darlington and Durham Junction Railway are (with the exception of one short gradient of 1 in 125, near the summit level,) very good; and its viaducts are probably unequalled on any railway in the kingdom. The Victoria Bridge, carrying the railway at an elevation of 130 feet over the river Wear, and having one of its four great arches of 160 feet, and another of 144 feet span, has long been regarded as one of the noblest stone bridges in Europe; and there are three timber viaducts of gigantic dimensions in the neighbourhood of Durham. The City of Durham Branch Railway leaves the main line at Belmont, is 2½ miles in length, and terminates in a handsome and commodious station at the north side of the head of Gilesgate, commanding a magnificent view of the valley below. We understand that an engine is to be employed solely upon this branch for the purpose of conveying carriages to and from every train which passes along the main line. The engines and carriages of the Great North of England Railway Company are to run on the whole distance between York and Newcastle, so that there will be no change of carriages between those towns; and we have every reason to hope that provision will be made for similar accommodation to Durham, by the employment of carriages with first and second class compartments, to be attached to or detached from the thorough-trains at the junction of the Durham branch."

To these details we may add, that there are eighteen stations on the line, viz., Darlington, Aycliffe, Bradbury, Ferryhill, Shincliffe, Sherburn, Durham, Belmont, Leamside, Rainton, Fence Houses, Pensher, Washington, Boldon, Brockley Whins, Pelaw, Felling, and Gateshead. The contractor for all the new stations, north of Durham, was Mr. C. J. Pearson, of Gateshead; for the other new stations, Messrs. Thompson & Forster, of Durham; for the viaducts, Mr. Richard Cail, of Newcastle; and for the general works on the line, Messrs. Evans, Bray, Hutchinson, Hattersley, Mould, Rush, and Lawson. The engineer-in-chief is Robert Stephenson, Esq.: resident engineer, T. E. Harrison, Esq. The directors now in office are:—

*George Hudson, Esq., York, Chairman.
*George Davies, Esq., Town Clerk of York, Deputy Chairman.

*James Richardson, Esq., York.	T. B. Pease, Esq., Leeds.
John Hotham, Esq., York.	Nathaniel Plews, Esq., Darlington.
Edward Oxley, Esq., Darlington.	Robert Gill, Esq., Manchester.
Charles Tee, Esq., Barnsley.	D. O'Brien, Esq., London, (Sir J. Graham's Private Secretary).
Nicholas Wood, Esq., Killingworth.	

* Committee of Management.

Major Pasley, Government Inspector of Railways, passed over the line with Mr. Hudson on Saturday last, and made a careful inspection of the various works. The gallant officer expressed his high admiration of the whole of them—and espe-

Digitized by Google

cially the viaducts; and on Monday, at a meeting of the shareholders in York, the Chairman congratulated them on the diligence which had been used by the contractors, and the excellent manner in which they had fulfilled their engagements.

In the *York Courant*, there is a "DESCRIPTION OF THE LINE," which we transfer to our pages:—

After leaving Darlington station, it crosses the Skerne by several bridges, and proceeds to the village of Ayeliffe. The line then passes through an immense limestone rock; crosses the Skerne, with which it runs parallel for a considerable distance, through a beautifully undulating country; and after passing under a branch of the Clarence Railway, it again crosses the Skerne several times until it reaches Mordon Carrs, (a vast extent of land of a similar description to the well-known Chat Mose). The railway traverses Mordon Carrs for a distance of more than a mile, the embankment being raised on three-inch planks the whole distance. Leaving the village of Mordon on the right, Bradbury next presents itself; a short distance beyond which is a large embankment, where the earth for a long period continued to sink, and caused a great amount of labour to the contractors. Having again crossed the Skerne, the road runs under another branch of the Clarence Railway, and then runs parallel with that line for a considerable distance, until it crosses it at Ferryhill; through which hill is a magnificent cutting eighty feet deep, the bottom stratum being sandstone, and the upper limestone. The Clarence line here again runs parallel with the Darlington and Newcastle, for some distance; and then they diverge in two branches, one to the right and the other to the left. The line now runs through a district very rich in beautiful scenery, and, after passing through a deep cutting, reaches Shincliffe hill. Leaving a very extensive colliery on the left, the Shincliffe viaduct is approached, which is 600 feet long, and is a splendid piece of workmanship. From hence, an excellent view is obtained of the city of Durham, with its minster prominent in the distance. The line now crosses the Durham and Sunderland Railway, and then passes over the Cassop viaduct, which is the second great work of the kind on the line. From hence to the Sherburn station, there is an uninterrupted view of the city of Durham, although at a considerable distance, until the Sherburn viaduct is reached, which is by far the most splendid and interesting sight on this railroad. It is 660 feet long, and is the third great viaduct in less than a mile. The Shincliffe, Cassop, and Sherburn viaducts each cost £6000, and are constructed of the best Memel timber. After traversing some distance, the line arrives at Belmont, from which a branch diverges to the city of Durham. Continuing the route, passing Leamside, and leaving the celebrated Adventure colliery on the right, the line soon passes into the Durham Junction Railway, which is about five miles in length. Passing the stations of Rainton and Fence Houses, Pensher Hill presents itself; on the summit of which, a monument is in the course of erection to the memory of the late Lord Durham. Just beyond this, is Victoria Bridge, which crosses the river Wear. It is a magnificent stone structure, consisting of five arches, and is stated to have cost the large sum of £40,000. Here the scenery is most beautiful and interesting, and such it continues as far as Washington, which is the termination of the Durham Junction line. The road then proceeds on the Pontop and South Shields Railway (formerly the Stanhope and Tyne), which is five and a quarter miles in length, to the Brandling Junction, where the train passes on to the Brandling Junction Railway.

The "OPENING OF THE LINE" was fixed for "WATERLOO DAY," (Tuesday, June 18,) from which the long Peace of Europe is dated—that Peace of which the modern system of railway-communication, and its kindred invention, PENNY POSTAGE, are among the richest fruits. It was on the 18th of June, 1838, that the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway was opened; and the Newcastle and North Shields Railway was brought into operation on the 18th of June, 1839. On each of these occasions there was a deluge of rain; and when, on Monday evening last, the long drought gave place to a change of weather, and the works at the Gateshead station, for the first time, were interrupted by a heavy shower of rain, heads were shaken at the prospect of another comfortless railway-draggle on an "opening day." Fortunately, however, although Tuesday was showery, it was not sufficiently so to mar the day's enjoyment, or even to interfere with the excellent arrangements of the several railway-companies concerned.

The Brandling Junction Railway Directors had made arrangements to give the shareholders and other gentlemen, together with their workmen, a trip to Darlington, there to join the opening-train from York. The ticket which they issued bore the names of the directors, &c., as follows:—

DIRECTORS.

J. W. Williamson, Esq., Chairman.
T. E. Headlam, Esq., M.D., Deputy Chairman.
R. W. Brandling, Esq., Managing Director.

E. B. Beaumont, Esq.	William Mountain, Esq.
William Bolam, Esq.	Ralph Naters, Esq.
George Johnson, Esq.	R. P. Philipson, Esq.
John Carr, Esq.	James Silliick, Esq.
Thomas Gray, Esq.	Nicholas Wood, Esq.

Engineer, Mr. Ralph Coulthard.
Secretary, Mr. James Potts.

On the back of the card was the engraving of the "LONDON POST," "showing the manner in which the mail was conveyed in 1647 from London to Edinburgh, which at that time occupied ten days;" and also the following interesting statement of facts:—

1712.	Stage-coach from London to Edinburgh, in ..	13½ days.
1784.	From London to Newcastle .....above	3 "
1800.	Ditto ditto	42 hours.
1830.	Ditto ditto	30 "
1844.	Railway from London to Newcastle	12½ "

The engraved block having been kindly lent to us for our present number, the "LONDON POST" of 1647 reappears before the newspaper-public in 1844.

9 o'clock was the time appointed for the departure of the Brandling trains from Oakwellgate station, Gateshead; and the closest punctuality was observed. There were three trains, (including several carriages sent forward for the occasion by the Great North of England Directors). The *Edinburgh*, pilot engine, headed the procession, under the guidance of Mr. T. E. Harrison, C.E. The first train was drawn by the *Nathaniel Ogle*. Then came the second train, drawn by the *Brandling*, a beautiful engine, bearing the arms of the Brandling family. The third was drawn by the *Mountain*. Among the passengers were many members of the Newcastle and Gateshead town-councils, and other influential gentlemen. To name them would occupy too much of our space; and we should also, necessarily, be liable to the omission of names as important as those that we inserted. We shall therefore, in our report of the day's proceedings, mention merely those strangers to our district who took part in the proceedings, and whose names have come to our knowledge.

An immense number of spectators witnessed the departure of the trains, and saluted them with hearty cheers. Cannon were fired at the Brandling station, at Abbot & Co.'s works, and at other places; and flags were displayed on every hand.

The trains performed the trip smoothly and leisurely, and reached the station of the Great North of England Railway, Darlington, at about 20 minutes past 11 o'clock. The town, of course, was thrown into a state of great excitement, by the arrival of so many canny folks from the banks of the Tyne and the Wear.

At half-past 12, a train arrived from York, consisting of 22 new first-class carriages, which had performed the journey in two hours.

Next came *the* train—one that will be for ever memorable in the annals of railways. At 5 o'clock in the morning, it left the station in Euston-square, London, with nine passengers. We are happy that we have it in our power to give their names—(and especially as two or three of our contemporaries have been misled into error, and mentioned Mr. Carr Glyn as one of the party). The nine gentlemen were:—

The Hon. H. T. Liddell, M.P.	J. S. Cripps, Esq., Leicester.
The Hon. T. H. Liddell.	J. Cartwright, Esq., Loughboro'.
C. C. Macaulay, Esq., Leicester.	G. B. Paget, Esq., Leicestershire.
T. Macaulay, Esq., Leicester.	Samuel Berridge, Esq., Leicester.

John Fox Bell, Esq., Leicester, Midland Railway Secretary.

There was a peculiar appropriateness in the presence of the heir of our noble and respected neighbour, Lord Ravensworth, on this auspicious occasion—as every one will at once perceive, on reading the speech of Mr. George Stephenson, so unpretendingly and agreeably delivered in the evening, at the Assembly Rooms in Newcastle.

The Member for North Durham had voted in the House of Commons at midnight; and he and his companions brought down with them several copies of the *Morning Herald*, containing the division on Mr. Miles's amendment, and 19½ columns of the parliamentary debates!

The train, we have stated, left London at 5 o'clock. At 10 minutes before 1 o'clock it was in Darlington—262 miles from Euston-square! The stoppages on the road amounted in the aggregate to an hour and a quarter, so that the train was only 6 hours and 35 minutes in motion, and had consequently travelled at the rate of 40 miles an hour!

It passed on from Darlington, drawn by the *Cleveland* engine, and reached the terminus in Gateshead at half-past 2 o'clock, having performed the trip from London (303 miles) in NINE HOURS AND A HALF!!!

The travellers could thus say—what was never said before by mortal man—that they had seen both St. Paul's, London, and St. Nicholas's, Newcastle, within ten consecutive hours!

Digitized by Google

At Darlington, a "monster train" was formed, the York carriages being united with several of those which had travelled from Gateshead in the morning. Six railway-companies contributed coaches to the train, namely, the Darlington and Newcastle, the Manchester and Leeds, the Midland, the Great North of England, the York and North Midland, and the Birmingham and Derby Junction. One of the carriages, the *Gondola*, was provided with an open "box" at each end, into which passengers could stroll at pleasure from an elegant inner-room, and enjoy a seat in the open air.

The number of carriages in the train was about 40. We do not speak positively; for although there were about a score of reporters present, there were still not a sufficient number to count the carriages! A watchmaker observed—(the *Sam Slick* of Darlington)—that it would take at least three persons to look at the train!

It was drawn by three engines, viz., the *Wear*, the *Glasgow*, and the *Edinburgh*. Loud were the acclamations of the multitude when it got "under way," and took its departure for the North. The length of the train was about 350 yards, and the number of passengers nearly 800!

At every village and hamlet the inhabitants were out of doors—the men loudly cheering, the little lads huzzaing, and the women "airing their pocket-handkerchiefs." The very pigs paused in their pursuit of garbage, and lifted up their eyes in stupid wonder. The husbandman in the field, looking up from his noonday toil, stared at the moving Town, and felt his heart stirred within him by thoughts, dim and undefinable, of his country's greatness. On, on, it rushed, like whizzing rocket, or planet breaking from its orbit, and "running mad." It was an exhilarating, a stupendous sight, and big with promise of a glorious Future. At the pleasant village of Aycliffe—or "Yackley," as the villagers prefer to call it—(and why should they not, if they are fond of euphony?)—they knew not what to make of it. Old and young rent the air with their cries as the train shot past. The parson of the parish, standing on the rustic bridge, was alone mute and thoughtful, as though he knew not whether good or evil was to come of the revolution.

On speeds the train, leaving the worthy priest to settle the problem as he may:—on it speeds, an "established fact," which, whether it be good or evil (and it would be atheism to conclude the latter), has made its way into the centre of our Civilization, and will there remain, until its mission be fulfilled.

On it speeds over Mordon Carrs, hardly permitting a glance at the Old-World trees, dug from the drains which skirt the iron road, and bearing back the mind from the railways of England to her primeval forests, whose ruins have covered the vast plain with black and spongy moss.

On to Thrislington gap—a rift in the solid rock—through which admission is gained from the South of England to the North.

A few miles, and Durham cathedral comes in view, grandly looming through the cold, dull atmosphere, at the end of a long green vista.

What earnest men are those, herding together on yon grassy knoll, who hardly deign a glance at the passing Wonder? One man, towering above his fellows, is "sawing the air with his arm, thus." To the flying men of the middle classes, his appeal is mere pantomime: his comrades around him hang intently on his words—for he speaks to them of their Rights. And this, too, is a Great Fact. The people "take their own business into their own hands." Botch it, perhaps, to begin with; but practice will make perfect.

At the crossing of the Wear, by the Victoria bridge, the train forms a half-circle on the railway-curve. Looking from the centre-carriage, we see the three engines shooting like thunderbolts along the viaduct—their frenzied cranks twisting to and fro in "temporary insanity," and prompting the prayers of the passengers for their safety.

The ghosts of the old Barons run gibbering through the halls of Hylton, as the train flies past; and the Boldon Boniface mutters a malediction on the fiend which has devoured the Newcastle and Sunderland coaches—run off with all his customers—and left his tap and his temper to grow sour.

Impeded awhile by the difficult navigation at Brockley Whins (now in course of correction), the train, after splitting itself up, and reuniting like "the Lambton worm," is once more bounding along the line; and in a few minutes our visitors are perched on the Brandling bridge, affording them a pleasant prospect up and down the "long dirty lane," and preparing them by degrees for the grandeur of the new station! Flags are flying and bells are ringing—cannons kicking up a disturbance—shops shut, and shopkeepers and shopboys running against each other in the streets—bairns shouting at the top of their treble pipes in the "Bairn Close"—and such a Babel of Tyneside-talk filling the air on every side, that strangers are bewildered, and begin to suspect Mr. Hudson of having trapped them into a trip to John O'Groat's or Nootka Sound!

When the train disgorged its living hundreds, the vast cathedral-like pavilion of the station was crowded with strange faces—with men who, having breakfasted with their wives in Middlesex, Warwickshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Lancashire, and other distant counties, were half-inclined to doubt that they were standing at the northern verge of the county palatine of Durham, and about to dine in the great "coal-hole of the north!"

Pursuant to prior arrangement, Mr. Hudson proceeded to the "post-office" of the station, accompanied by Mr. Davies, the Town Clerk of York, and other Directors of the Newcastle and Darlington Junction Railway, to receive an

ADDRESS FROM THE GATESHEAD COUNCIL.

We observed in the room—Henry Mitcalfe, Esq., M.P., Hon. H. T. Liddell, M.P., John Hodgson Hinde, Esq., M.P., Richard Spoor, Esq., John Adamson, Esq., Joseph Simpson, Esq., Edward Oxley, Esq., James Archbold, Esq., R. W. Brandling, Esq., John Clayton, Esq., W. L. Harle, Esq., G. S. Dixon, Esq., W. E. Wooler, Esq., Charles Rayne, Esq., and W. Wylam, Esq.; also, the Mayor and Town Clerk of Gateshead; Aldermen Barras, Davies, and Pollock; and Councillors Revely, Lister (sen. and jun.), Wylam, Hymers, Garbutt, Bertram, Robson (Joseph), Potts, Wilson, Sowerby, Cummins, and Smith.

Mr. Hudson took the chair in the presence of a crowded audience, and was received with loud applause.

The Mayor (W. Kenmir, Esq.) said:—Mr. Chairman, and Directors of the Darlington Junction Railway, I beg to congratulate you on your safe arrival with your first train, at this your most beautiful and splendid station. It does great honour to the proprietors to have expended so much money in the erection of such an edifice; and to see it executed in the style that it is, must give them the highest pleasure and gratification—and every one else here that beholds it this day. (Applause.) Allow me to step aside a little, and make some remarks on those who have erected it. The first, on Mr. Pearson, the builder—a gentleman bred, born, and reared amongst us in this borough. It is a great honour and credit to him to see the grand style in which he has performed the work; and it must be a great pleasure to every one belonging to the borough to think that they have such a man as a townsman. When I look round, and see the most splendid roof that it is covered with, manufactured at that great emporium of iron-works in this borough, the works of Messrs. Hawks, Crawshay, & Co., it does infinite credit to them, and to the mechanics employed under them, to see such a piece of workmanship completed. Nay! to think, when I see such an edifice begun, carried on, and completed, or nearly exclusively so, by men of Gateshead, I think any man who is here to-day, belonging to Gateshead, must have a heart full of joy, or it must be very cold indeed, to think that they can boast of such townsmen. (Applause.) Mr. Hudson, allow me now to present to you the address of the corporation of Gateshead, unanimously agreed to by the corporation in council assembled—which our most worthy and excellent Town-Clerk will do me the kindness to read to you.

The Town Clerk read the address—which was founded on the resolution passed by the town-council on the 5th inst., on the motion of Mr. Ald. Brockett, viz.:—

That having learnt, with much pleasure, that the line of railway communication between this borough and the metropolis will be rendered continuous and complete on the 18th instant, by the opening of the Newcastle and Darlington Junction Railway, we, the Town Council of the borough of Gateshead, deem it due to the Directors of that railway to offer our cordial congratulations on the completion of their undertaking, and our sincere wishes for its success; and that the Mayor be requested to communicate this resolution, personally, to the Directors, on the opening of the railway.

Mr. Hudson said, it was a source of great satisfaction to himself and colleagues, to make the acquaintance, on this auspicious occasion, of the municipal authorities of Gateshead. The directors were most anxious to enjoy the confidence and

Digitized by Google

support of the corporation, and nothing should be wanting on their part to promote and preserve a good understanding with the inhabitants and their representatives. Any suggestions which might be made to them, with a view to render the railway more beneficial to the public, would at all times receive their best attention. (Applause.) He accepted the address as a harbinger of amity and good feeling between the two incorporated bodies, and it should not be his fault if the present friendly understanding were ever broken. (Applause.) He could not avoid congratulating the gentlemen now assembled on the presence amongst them of an honourable member of the House of Commons, connected with one of the noblest families in the district (loud applause), who had travelled from London to witness the completion of this great undertaking. (Applause.) The railway-directors had shown what could be done. A feat had been performed, by Mr. Liddell and other gentlemen, unparalleled in the history of the world. Three hundred miles had never before been travelled in so short a time.—Reference had been made to the station in which they were assembled. He was glad to find that it gave so much satisfaction. He was anxious that it should do so—that it should be worthy the great district in the midst of which it was erected; and it afforded him the highest satisfaction that his desire was accomplished, and the public gratified. (Applause.) He begged leave to offer his grateful thanks, and the thanks of his colleagues, for the kind expression of feeling which had proceeded from the Gateshead corporation; and he hoped to have the pleasure of seeing them to dinner in the Newcastle assembly-rooms. (Applause.)

Mr. H. T. Liddell briefly congratulated the public-spirited directors of the railway, and the council and other inhabitants of Gateshead, on the completion of this great work. He could bear testimony to the careful arrangements which had been made for the comfort and safety of passengers by the new railway, and he thanked his friend Mr. Hudson, and the other directors, for their kindness in enabling him to travel in so short a time from London, and to meet so many friends and neighbours on this auspicious-day. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Hudson now left the chair, and the proceedings terminated.

Among the company were several professional gentlemen who have had no inconsiderable share in the execution of those great public undertakings for which our age is remarkable. One of them, speaking of the Newcastle and Darlington Railway, observed, that the shareholders had three things on which they might congratulate themselves:—

First, that on no other railway had there been so much work done in such little time.

Second, that on no other railway had the work been done for so little money.

Third, that there had not been a railway in England opened in such fine condition.

The opening of the line would by all "true-born Englishmen" have been thought miserably incomplete, if it had gon off without a public dinner. There was, accordingly, (as ha already been hinted,) a convivial meeting at the Assembl Rooms in Newcastle.

There were present at the dinner no less than fifteen "gentlemen of the press," on behalf of the following newspapers:—

Leeds Mercury,	Yorkshire Gazette (two),	Newcastle Journal,
Leeds Intelligencer,	Yorkshireman,	Newcastle Courant,
Leeds Times,	York Courant,	Newcastle Chronicle,
Sunderland Herald,	York Herald,	Gateshead Observer.
Tyne Mercury,	Newcastle Advertiser,	

From their various reports of the proceedings, editors yet unborn may pick out many a paragraph, to excite a smile at the expense of bygone times; for the lapse of years may possibly obscure the railway-feat of Tuesday last. Twenty years have not passed away since the following paragraph appeared in a provincial journal:—

"Time Past and Time Present.—A gentleman of Oxford has in his possession a paper containing the following advertisement:—'John Roger's coach will begin *flying* on Easter Monday in the morning. That is to say, it will leave Oxford at six o'clock in the morning of that day, and will dine in London at twelve o'clock the *next* day, God willing.'—The distance is fifty-six miles; and it is usual now to leave Oxford at six, and dine in London at three the *same* day!"

The editor proclaims with admiration the feat of a journey from London *to Oxford* in nine hours, and contrasts it with John Roger's triumph of a former age. We now record with wonder a trip from London *to Newcastle* in nine hours and a half, and contrast it with the London-and-Oxford feat of our brother-journalist. We must not, therefore, be disquieted in our grave, if, in 1864, our report be quoted as a foil to the performances of the "aërial machine," when it flies from London to Newcastle in nine minutes! We hope that, in reporting the trip, the newspapers of the day may be able to state, as we so cheerfully can on the present occasion, that all the arrangements were well made and well carried out, and that no mishap occurred to cloud the happiness of the "opening day."

THE DINNER.

The repast—at once elegant and substantial—was provided and served up with the combined taste and skill of Messrs. Archbold, Brown, and Haigh.

The noble hall was filled with shareholders in the railway and their guests, about five hundred gentlemen sitting down to the table.

At the cross-table, (standing at the head of the room, and slightly elevated,) sat the Chairman (Mr. Hudson), with the Mayor of Newcastle (Sir John Fife), Mr. George Stephenson, C.E., Mr. R. W. Brandling, the Recorder of Newcastle (Mr. G. H. Wilson, of Harperley Park), the Rev. John Collinson, and Professor Barlow, on his right; and on his left, Mr. Hodgson Hinde, M.P. for Newcastle, the Hon. H. T. Liddell, M.P. for North Durham, Prebendary Townsend, Mr. Bright, M.P. for Durham, Mr. Mitcalfe, M.P. for North Shields, and Mr. H. Houldsworth, Chairman of the Manchester and Leeds Railway Directors. The vice-chairs were occupied by Mr. N. Plews, Mr. R. Davies (town-clerk of York), Mr. E. Oxley, and Mr. Charles Tee (Barnsley).

Among the other gentlemen whom we observed, and whose names have not already appeared in our report, were the following:—

Mr. Anthony Titley, Leeds.	Mr. G. Paget, Thorpe, Leicester.
Mr. Edwin Simpson, Leeds.	Mr. Alfred Burgess, Leicester.
Mr. W. E. Hutchinson, Leicester.	Mr. Robert Stephenson, C.E.
Mr. R. Barrow, Manchester.	Sir J. Simpson, York.
Mr. John Close, York.	The Sheriff of York.
Mr. W. L. Newton, Derby.	Mr. D. Waddington.
Mr. M. Plummer, Newcastle.	Mr. S. Grundy, Leicester.
Mr. John Rand, Bradford.	Mr. Wilson, Sheffield.
Mr. G. T. Andrews, York.	Mr. W. Barlow, Leicester.
Mr. G. Goodman, Leeds.	Mr. Samuel Beale.
Mr. T. B. Pease, Leeds.	Mr. Lewis, Derby.
Mr. Jonathan Birch, London.	Dr. Waddington, Manchester.
Rev. R. W. B. Hornby, York.	Mr. George Jennings, York.
Mr. C. J. Newstead, York.	Alderman Matheson, York.
Mr. J. Oldfield, York.	Capt. Oldfield, York.
Capt. Roatham, York.	Alderman Price, York.
Mr. James Harvey, Halifax.	Mr. M. Stocks, Halifax.
Mr. R. Moyland, Barnsley.	Mr. J. Moyland, Barnsley.
Mr. J. Hargraves, Leeds.	Mr. C. Makers, Leeds.
Rev. W. G. Harrison.	E. L. Hough, Grantham.
Mr. J. Johnson, Easingwold.	Mr. J. Hargrave, Headingley.
Mr. George Looking, Hull.	Mr. W. K. Lusbury, Bath.
Rev. J. Nodder, Ashover Rectory.	Mr. H. B. Maxwell, Leamington.
Mr. T. H. Ramsbotham, Fixby Hall.	Mr. Robert Rayson, Stockton.
	Rev. F. Simpson, Foston.
Mr. J. Beale, Birmingham.	Mr. A. Peyton, Birmingham.
Mr. L. Schuster, Manchester.	Mr. W. Marshall, Manchester.
Mr. F. J. Robertson, Grantham.	Mr. James Hutton, Manchester.

During dinner, information was brought into the room that two Brandling trains, which remained in Darlington until 5 o'clock, had arrived in Gateshead. The first train, drawn by "the bonny *Brandling*," made the trip in 85 minutes. The second, a larger train, drawn by the *Mountain*, had performed it in 110.

On the removal of the cloth, the Chairman proposed the health of "The Queen," and, in enumerating her Majesty's virtues, did not omit to mention her patronage of railways. (The toast was drunk with three times three, and followed by the "National Anthem;" the singers being Messrs. Barker, Lambert, Wilkinson, and Smith, from the choir of York minster).

The health of "The Queen Dowager" was received with loud and protracted cheering; and also that of "Prince Albert and the rest of the Royal Family." (Glee by the choristers, "Hail, smiling morn.")

The Chairman next pronounced the words "The Eighteenth of June!" and instantly there was a loud burst of applause—which the company prolonged with hearty and almost exhaustless enthusiasm.—(Not only the members of the Peace Society, but some of their neighbours also, looked grave—as if they hardly anticipated so riotous a rejoicing at the bare mention of the date of Waterloo.)—The Chairman proceeded to

Digitized by Google

pass a high eulogium on the Great Captain, and concluded with the toast of "The Duke of Wellington." (Three times three:—and "Peace to the souls of the heroes" from the York singers.)

The CHAIRMAN gave "The Army and Navy." (Loud cheers.)

Capt. WEATHERLEY briefly responded to the toast.

The CHAIRMAN said, that it might, at the first blush, seem rather selfish in him to propose the next toast on the list—viz., "Prosperity to the Newcastle and Darlington Junction Railway." (Loud cheers.) But if he knew anything of the system and management of railways, companies could not possibly prosper without conferring the greatest advantages on all that came within the sphere of their influence; and all, therefore, had a great, if not an equal, interest in their prosperity. (Applause.) The prosperity of a railway—or, in other words, its dividend (laughter) — depended on the accommodations it afforded—or its utility to the community; and in conducting the Newcastle and Darlington Junction Railway, the directors would steadily keep in view the public object for which their act of parliament was granted them—namely, that it should confer benefit on the districts through which it passed. (Applause.) He need hardly enlarge on the powers and capabilities of railways, after the performance, the unprecedented and astonishing performance of that day—by which an honourable member of parliament (cheers), whom it was his pride and pleasure to have sitting so near him on this occasion, had been enabled to dine with so many of his constituents on the Tyne within a very few hours of the discharge of his duties to them on the banks of the Thames. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Hudson stated the determination of himself and his colleagues to pay the utmost attention to the wishes and suggestions of the inhabitants of Newcastle and the surrounding district, and concluded with an appropriate compliment to Mr. George Stephenson, the illustrious inventor of the locomotive-engine, and to his hardly less illustrious son, Mr. Robert Stephenson. The toast was then drunk with three times three; and Mr. R. GEDDES, being called upon for a song, sung (to the tune of "The Days of Good Queen Bess") a ditty written for the occasion, entitled—

THE LONDON AND NEWCASTLE RAILROAD.

WE'VE got a dashing railroad from Newcastle up to London:
Our good old ancient turnpike roads are now completely undone.
These scientific engineers, and steam and rail contrivers,
Have dish'd our old stage-coaches now, and rain'd both guards and drivers.

CHORUS.

O this march of intellect! what wonders it produces!
Every-day, it's strange to say, some change it introduces!

In days of yore, for travelling, we'd two most grand resources;
Like pilgrims we could stump on foot, or mount our old pack-horses.
Then afterwards we made a "move," and mounted one-horse chaises;
Which our forefathers hailed with joy, and thought they ran "like blazes." O this march, &c.

Mail-coaches, next, got on the way, with Government protection;
And every one thought travelling then had fairly reached perfection.
But now these steam leviathans, yclep'd the "Devil's Snorters,"
Have brought the coaches to a stand, and left them no supporters.

A trip to London, we are told, was once a three weeks' journey;
And, ere we started, we'd our wills prepared by some attorney.
But now by rail we're carried there, and back again, so quickly,
That scarcely have we time to dine, or feel a little sickly.

The good old palmy days are gone, of six and eight mile stages,
When guards and drivers tipp'd their hats, and claim'd their *legal* wages;
And whether we were fast asleep, or with some topic busy,
They poked their noses in the coach, and ask'd you for a tizzy.

We've not to stop for pigs or sheep, nor thread through droves of cattle
Nor stop at bars or turnpike gates, but straight along we rattle.
No brooks or streams have we to ford, no crossing over ferries;
Nor can we even wet our nebs at any Tom and Jerrys.

We neither stop for mists or fogs, or darkness during winter;
Nor are we capsized in a ditch, with broken pole or splinter.
We're not annoy'd by waggonmen, nor jaw'd by brewers' draymen;
Nor are we stopp'd upon the road, by rascally highwaymen.

There's now no running down a hill, and breaking reins and traces,
To put us all in bodily fear, and give us cursed wry faces.
No horse have we, to kick or prance, or do a little shying,
To make a poor old dandy faint, or set an old maid crying.

We're not compell'd, as we were once, to dine like vulgar sinners;
Nor bolt away at sound of horn, before we bolt our dinners.
Full forty minutes we're allow'd, sometimes a minute later;
And dine like lords for half-a-crown, and *nothing* to the waiter.

Our turnpike plagues and miseries, thank heaven! now are ended;
For Stephenson and Company our barb'rous ways have mended.
They now convey us safe by steam; and, what may still seem stranger,
Their engines go like thunderbolts, and devil a bit of danger.

Then may the railroads prosper long, and benefit the nation;
And may their excellent management secure our approbation.
We'll then enjoy a quiet ride, with life and limb secure;
For knocks and shocks, and thumps and bumps, we really can't endure.

So now I think I'll end my song, else you will think me prosy:
Besides, my soporific stave, I fear will make you dozy.
In fact I've spun my yarn so long, I'm really at a nonplus;
Which proves my muse, in railroad phrase, has fairly reach'd the terminus.

The song was received with "unbounded applause;" our "P. D." (who had made friends with the maids, and slipped into the orchestra,) being the only dissentient. He was annoyed at the omission of all allusion to the "odoriferous borough," and, to supply the defect, has requested the insertion of an additional verse or two, as follows:—

VERSES ADDED BY THE P.D. OF THE GATESHEAD OBSERVER.

Our Gateshead's noble station, too, deserves particular mention;
Our neighbour Pearson claims our praise—his works our best attention.
He's made old Gateshead look so spruce, that friends who lately saw her,
Declare the dirty jade's so changed, that now they hardly know her.

This Gateshead Grainger will, we hope, continue now to "go it,"
And revolutionize the place, that not a soul may know it.
Then Pipewellgate and Oakwellgate, with all their pigs, will vanish;
And every "little creeping thing" he'll most completely banish.

The CHAIRMAN next proposed "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese," a toast which the company applauded as loudly as "The Duke of Wellington."

Prebendary TOWNSEND and the Rev. J. COLLINSON rose, and were received with cordial cheers. The venerable Prebendary spoke at considerable length; but having already drawn so largely on our space, we must hurry to a close, and give, not the letter, but the spirit only of his admirable address. The public, he said, were deeply interested in the extension and prosperity of railroads; and he felt proud that he was standing in the presence of one whose name would be handed down in connection with them to all posterity. (Applause.) There was a Book which prophesied a time in which men should learn the art of war no more; and this new system of railroads, of which Northumberland and Durham formed the cradle, was the harbinger of that happy and glorious time. From the time of the first-born Cain to the day of Waterloo, war had been looked upon, unhappily, as the natural state of society, and warriors had occupied the first place in the consideration of their fellow-men. Within the last thirty years, however, kings, and statesmen, and nations had been studying peace and commerce, and evincing a desire to reap the fruits of a higher civilization:—and what was the guarantee to the world of the continued existence of this better state of things? Let not the company smile when he made the assertion, that it was the attention now being paid to railroads, and to other improved means of intercommunication. (Applause.) Much was heard of the warlike designs of Russia, but he had lately heard of the Emperor's determination to lay down one thousand miles of railroad; and when the Russians turned their attention to trade and commerce, war would become hateful to them, and Europe would have a new guarantee for perpetual peace. (Applause.) France, too, and other continental countries, were rapidly being intersected by these new modes of communication, and Europe would soon be knit into one community by enduring bonds of iron. Great events were at hand—peace was about to reign over the nations of the earth, and dispense her richest blessings to the great family of man. (The venerable divine resumed his seat amidst the rapturous plaudits of a company which, a few minutes before, had as rapturously applauded "The Eighteenth of June!")

The Rev. J. COLLINSON, in briefly replying to the toast, spoke of the Bishop's warm interest in works of science, and suggested to railway directors the duty and importance of allowing their servants to attend divine worship on the Sabbath day.

The CHAIRMAN rose to propose the health of a gentleman connected with this district by birth, by family, and by parliamentary ties — a gentleman who had that day performed a feat unprecedented in the history of this or any other age or country, in travelling upwards of three hundred miles in nine hours and a half, including an hour and a quarter spent in stoppages! (Loud cheers.) Mr. Hudson stated the great

Digitized by Google

services rendered to the Newcastle and Darlington Company in the House of Commons, both by Mr. Liddell and Mr. Hinde, and proposed the health of the former honourable member. (Three times three.)

Mr. LIDDELL rose amidst renewed cheering, and made a few remarks on the progress of railroads, and especially on the last great event in their history—the opening of an uninterrupted railway-communication from the Thames to the Tyne—whereby he had been enabled to take part in the proceedings of the House of Commons at a late hour in the night, and to arrive in Newcastle in time for an early dinner on the following day. (Applause.) This wonderful achievment was the result of the capital, skill, and enterprise of England; and if he (Mr. Liddell) felt proud of this new triumph of his country, what must be the feelings of that illustrious individual, now sitting amongst them, who, though born in humble circumstances, had, by the force of his genius and his industry, so distinguished himself as to hand down the name of Stephenson to everlasting fame! (Prolonged applause.) He would not have referred to the position from which Mr. Stephenson had sprung, were it not that he himself, so far from being ashamed of his origin, was in the habit of alluding to it; and if Mr. Stephenson took a pride in the humility of his birth, surely his countrymen might be proud of the obscurity of his youth as compared with the pride and prominence of his present position! (Applause.) He was happy to add, that, distinguished as he was by his genius and his deeds, his sterling worth reflected higher honour upon George Stephenson than even those rare abilities with which he was endowed by the Almighty. (Renewed applause.) Referring to the speech of Prebendary Townsend, Mr. Liddell stated that, by the construction of a railway from London to Folkstone and Dover, thousands of persons had been enabled to spend their last Whitsuntide holidays at Calais and Boulogne, among their "natural enemies;" and when such was the case, the two nations would be purged of their senseless antipathies, and learn to look upon each other, not as foreigners and foes, but members in common of the great human family. (Applause.) Mr. Stephenson, therefore, might truly be looked upon as the great pacificator of the age. And yet, a few years ago, he was but a working engineman at a colliery! (Hear, hear.) But was a man, not only of talent, but of genius. Happily, also, he was a man of industry and of character. He constructed the first engine that ever travelled by its own spontaneous power over an iron railroad; and on such a road, and by such an engine, a communication had now been established between London and Newcastle. (Loud cheers.) The author of this system of travelling had lived long enough for his fame, but not long enough for his country. He had reared to himself a monument more durable than brass or marble, and based it on a foundation whereon it would rest unshaken by the storms of time, and imperishable in the lapse and the decay of ages. (Loud and protracted cheers.) He had much pleasure in proposing the health of Mr. Stephenson. (Three times three.)

Mr. GEORGE STEPHENSON stood up amidst renewed and enthusiastic applause, and, though imperfectly heard, was understood to say:—Mr. Liddell, Mr. Chairman, and fellow-townsmen (loud cheers), in rising to return thanks for the kind manner in which my health has been proposed and drunk, I am too sensible of my incompetency to acknowledge the compliment as it deserves. You will, however, forgive me all my imperfections, well knowing that I have no talent for speechifying. (Laughter.) But as the honourable member has referred to the engineering efforts of my early days, it may not be amiss if I say a few words to you on that subject, more especially for the encouragement of my younger professional friends. (Applause.) Mr. Liddell has truly told you that in my earlier days I worked at an engine in a coal-pit. I had then to work early and late, often rising to my labour at one and two o'clock in the morning. Time rolled on, and I had the happiness to make some improvements in engine-work. The first locomotive that I made was at Killingworth colliery, and with Lord Ravensworth's money. (Applause.) Yes! Lord Ravensworth & Company were the first parties that would entrust me with money to make a locomotive engine. (Laughter and cheers.) That engine was made 32 years ago, and we called it *My Lord*. (Laughter.) I said to my friends that there was no limit to the speed of such an engine, provided the works could be made to stand. In this respect great perfection has been reached, and in consequence a very high velocity has been attained. In what has been done under my management, the merit is only in part my own: I have been most ably seconded and assisted by my son. (Loud cheers.) In the earlier period of my career, and when he was a little boy, I saw how deficient I was in education, and made up my mind that he should not labour under the same defect, but that I would put him to a good school, and give him a liberal training. I was, however, a poor man; and how do you think I managed? I betook myself to mending my neighbours' clocks and watches at nights, after my daily labour was done; and thus I procured the means of educating my son. (Applause.) He became my assistant and my companion. He got an appointment as under-viewer, and at nights we worked together at our engineering. I got leave to go from Killingworth to lay down a railway at Hetton, and next to Darlington; and after that, I went to Liverpool, to plan a line to Manchester. I there pledged myself to attain a speed of ten miles an hour. (Laughter.) I said I had no doubt the locomotive might be made to go much faster, but we had better be moderate at the beginning. The directors said I was quite right; for if, when they went to parliament, I talked of going at a greater rate than ten miles an hour, I would put a cross on the concern. (Laughter.) It was not an easy task for me to keep the engine down to ten miles an hour, but it must be done, and I did my best. (Laughter.) I had to place myself in that most unpleasant of all positions—the witness-box of a parliamentary committee. (Renewed laughter.) I was not long in it, I assure you, before I began to wish for a hole to creep out at. (Laughter.) I could not find words to satisfy either the committee or myself. Some one inquired if I were a foreigner, and another hinted that I was mad. (Laughter.) But I put up with every rebuff, and went on with my plans, determined not to be put down. Assistance gradually increased—improvements were made every day—and to-day, a train, which started from London in the morning, has brought me in the afternoon to my native soil, and enabled me to take my place in this room, and see around me many faces which I have great pleasure in looking upon. (Applause.) Friends and fellow-townsmen, I thank you most heartily for your kind reception, and wish you every happiness which this world can afford. (Loud cheers.)

The choristers having sung "Life 's a bumper," the CHAIRMAN rose to propose a toast, and spoke in the highest terms of the services rendered to the railway-company by Mr. Hodgson Hinde. It was very much owing to the honourable member (he said), that the directors had been enabled to lay down their line with a rapidity that had no parallel; and now, in a great measure through his negotiation, the mail was to be conveyed on the Newcastle and Darlington Railway from the very day that it was opened—a circumstance altogether without precedent. (Applause.) He would propose the toast of "The Borough Members, Messrs. J. H. Hinde and W. Ord." (Three times three.)

Mr. HODGSON HINDE entered upon a brief history of the Newcastle and Darlington Railway, and stated that it had not cost more than one-half the expense incurred in constructing other great lines of road. Having got to Newcastle, the centre of a district inhabited by three hundred thousand souls, they would now push on to Edinburgh. (Cheers.) Already funds had been raised, and ground broken, for a line from Edinburgh to Berwick; and there would be no difficulty in providing capital for a line from Berwick to Newcastle—the only difficulty was in satisfying applicants for shares. (Laughter.) The two lines, therefore, would no doubt be executed; and in 1846 they would be assembled in Berwick-upon-Tweed, just as they were now assembled in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. (Loud cheers.) For the success which had so far attended the progress of railway-communication from Darlington northward, they were indebted, almost wholly, to the energetic gentleman in the chair. (Loud applause.) He had brought them to the south banks of the Tyne. Every one was loud in praise of the magnificent station there erected, and every one was also loud in expressions of regret at the indifferent access to it from Newcastle. He trusted, however, that, in a short time, the guests of Mr. Hudson and his colleagues, changing places with those gentlemen, would entertain them at a public dinner, to commemorate the laying of the foundation-stone of a new bridge across the Tyne, (hear, hear, hear)—a structure which, when opened to the public, would render it a matter of perfect indifference

Digitized by Google

whether the station were in Newcastle or Gateshead—for it would make the two neighbouring boroughs virtually one. (Loud cheers.) The honourable member proposed the health of "The Chairman."

Mr. HUDSON was hailed with loud cheers when he rose to acknowledge the compliment. If private interests, he said, did not interpose an obstacle, he had no doubt that the Newcastle and Berwick Railway would be opened in 1846. As to the high-level bridge across the Tyne, he would give no pledge; but he hoped the day was not remote when the foundation-stone would be laid of a structure to combine Newcastle and Gateshead into one town. (Applause.) The Chairman, in conclusion, proposed "The Mayor and Corporation of Newcastle." (Loud cheers.)

Sir JOHN FIFE returned thanks, and made one or two happy remarks, founded on his then position—standing between the genius which planned and the energy and enterprise which executed the mighty works of modern times. His worship concluded by proposing "The Members for Durham, Messrs. Granger and Bright.

Mr. BRIGHT, in reply, spoke with his wonted eloquence on the greatness and moral influence of railroads.

The toasts of "Mr. Houldsworth," "The Recorder," and "Mr. Mitcalfe, M.P.," were successively given and acknowledged.

Mr. ROBERT STEPHENSON, whose health was next given, and drunk with loud cheers, observed that it was now hardly ten years since he left his native town to execute the London and Birmingham Railway; and since then, he and his revered father had had the honour of being more or less connected with every line of railway between Birmingham and Newcastle. (Hear, hear.) Mr. S. added, that whatever merit might attach to the works on the Newcastle and Darlington Railway, that merit was largely due to his friend Mr. Harrison. (Applause.)

Mr. T. E. HARRISON, in obedience to a loud and general call, rose and said a few words to the company.

"The Magistrates of Northumberland and R. W. Brandling, Esq.," "The Mayors of Gateshead, Stockton, Durham, and Sunderland," "The Ladies," and other toasts were given, and the company separated at midnight—just 24 hours after Mr. Liddell voted in the House of Commons!

Since the opening day, Gateshead has been "all alive" with flys and omnibuses, conveying passengers to and fro; and under the new arrangement, travellers from London reach Newcastle in 12½ hours, Carlisle in 15 hours, and Edinburgh in 23 hours!

THE GREAT RAILWAY FEAT.—The *Leicester Chronicle*, in a notice of "The First Journey from London to Newcastle by Railway," performed on the 18th inst., gives the following table, showing the time of arrival at each principal station on the road, viz.:—

STATIONS.	Distance from London.	Time of Arrival at each Station.	Time of Leaving each Station.	Duration of Stops.	Time of Running between Stations.	From Place to Place.
	MILES	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	MILES
Euston-square	..	..	5 3	..	..	..
Watford	17	5 32	5 32	0 0	0 29	17
Tring	31	5 54	5 54	0 0	0 22	14
Leighton	41	6 6	6 6	0 0	0 12	10
Wolverton	52	6 25	6 29	0 4	0 19	11
Weedon	69	6 58	7 58	0 0	0 29	17
Rugby	83	7 18	7 26	0 8	0 20	14
Ullesthorpe	90	7 40	8 40	0 0	0 14	7
Leicester	103	8 0	8 7	0 7	0 20	13
Loughborough	115	8 26	8 28	0 0	0 21	12
Derby	132	8 55	9 8	0 13	0 27	17
Ambergate	143	9 23	9 23	0 0	0 15	11
Chesterfield	157	9 40	9 46	0 6	0 17	14
Masbrough	171	10 6	10 13	0 7	0 20	14
Barnsley	184	10 33	10 33	0 0	0 20	13
Normanton	194	10 49	10 53	0 4	0 16	10
York	218	11 30	11 40	0 10	0 37	24
Alne	229	11 57	11 57	0 0	0 17	11
Thirsk	240	12 15	12 15	0 0	0 18	11
Northallerton	248	12 28	12 30	0 2	0 13	8
Darlington	264	12 55	1 2	0 7	0 25	16
Belmont (Durham)..	284	1 45	1 51	0 6	0 43	20
Gateshead	303	2 35			0 41	19
Total stoppage, time of running, and distance..				1 14	8 18	303

The highest speed was attained between Ambergate and Chesterfield, a distance of fourteen miles having been performed in seventeen minutes! This surpasses the racehorse at his topmost speed.

THE COLLIERS' STRIKE.

(From the *Gateshead Observer*, June 29, 1844.)

THE last return issued from the coal-trade office shows that the number of men who had left the union up to Saturday last was 651; and that the total number of hewers employed amounted to 3,235, producing about 4,600 chaldrons per day.

At the London coal-market on Wednesday there were 98½ ships, and 26 sold. The price of the best coal was 21s. 9d.

"The late men of Team colliery" sent us, last week, a reply to the letter of Mr. William Barkus, jun., in which (after irrelevant matter that would occupy our paper to no good purpose) they say:—

"Now to the point. Mr. Barkus would make the public believe that we, since June 13th, 1843, have averaged 15s. 5¾d. per week; but we beg to state that, since our last letter, we have averaged the monies of 34 men, and we find it to be 13s. 8¾d.

"Mr. Barkus says that we restricted ourselves from June 13. Now we beg to state that we did not join the union until July 15th, and then we restricted ourselves to 3s. 6d. per day. But we would ask how many of the men could make it?

"But we acted on the principle of brotherly love. Those that could earn more helped those that could not earn the stated sum.

"Mr. Barkus likewise says, that one fortnight during the above stated time we restricted ourselves to 3s. per day; in consequence of which, he was compelled to employ 20 more men. Now, did not Mr. Barkus, the very next day, bring us down to 2s. 6d.? And did the pit work more than seven days that fortnight? And were not the shades full of coals at that time? And yet he says that he was compelled to employ more men!

"We think we have said enough to show that Mr. Barkus's former statement was not an accurate one. Therefore we hope that our warfare will be at an end."

A pitman, who gives us his name, addressed a letter to us on the 20th inst., for himself and others, which we could not insert in our last number. We publish it now.

"Having seen (says he) a statement in your paper that three coal-hewers at East Cramlington had earned the sums of 8s., 10s., and 12s. per day each, and these sums at last year's prices, on which an advance of 27 per cent. is demanded, we think it our duty to the public, and the rest of our brethren, to give some explanation of these statements, and see how far they are correct.

"John Barnes and Charlton were never in the union; consequently they were never under any restriction. Therefore, if they can earn the above sum now, they certainly could earn nearly the same last year; and your correspondent can have no hesitation in giving the earnings of these individuals to the public for the last twelve months; which earnings we can safely say will not average 2s. 6d. per day for the last twelve months, finding picks, powder, candles, &c., out of that sum.

"Charlton preferred, before the expiration of last year, to work for 2s. 10d. per day, rather than remain where these enormous wages are made.

"Your correspondent says 27 per cent. We refer him to the *Newcastle Journal* and *Tyne Mercury*, where we are said to be asking an advance of 40 per cent. We beg leave to state that both these sums are incorrect.

"And, lastly, we wish to tell your correspondent that we are ready to go to work upon the same terms that these individuals are now working upon: that is, no keeker (coal-inspector) on the heap, filling all the seam away together, and one quart of ale per day. The terms of last year were a corf weighing seven and eight cwt.: two quarts of stone or foul coal found in it forfeited it to the master. A corf containing one peck of small, was forfeited likewise. And every corf weighing less that 6½ cwt., if clear of all the above, was forfeited for not being weight. And be it understood we were paid by the weight. There is also a great deal of difference in the manner of working the seam allowed to them, that was denied to us."

"The Marquis of Londonderry," says the *Newcastle Journal*, "has ejected from their abodes those pitmen who refused to resume their work, and who occupied houses at Shiney Row. Some of them have procured dwellings at Chester-le-Street, but a great majority of these misled people have no shelter, and have encamped in the lanes in the neighbourhood. The coal-trimmers and other labourers at Seaham Harbour, in the employ of the Marquis, proceeded from that place, under the escort of the Coast Guard Service Corps, to the collieries of the noble lord, to work until fresh men can be engaged to take the places of the pitmen who, at the dictation of the union, refuse to resume their employment. The supply of coals for shipment at Sunderland is daily increasing—a proof that the collieries of that district are generally getting to work again. At Murton colliery, the property of Colonel Braddyll, about nine keels of coals are now raised every day, by the new workmen, who have taking the places of the deluded men who listen to the advice of the demagogue delegates and other interested leaders of the

Digitized by Google

'strike.' Mendicancy on the part of the pitmen is now become general, and their conduct is represented as most audacious. A young man of the name of Alsop, about eighteen years of age, who formerly wrought at Elswick colliery, *died a few days ago from actual starvation!* Many are reduced to so weakly a state that there is little chance of their ever being able to undergo the fatigue of a day's work." The *Journal* adds, in a coarse spirit of injustice, "The poor, infatuated men, are, or pretend to be, religious Dissenters, and they say 'they are willing, by the directions of their divine master, to suffer for righteousness' sake;' yet, such is their gross ignorance and profanity, that many of them believe Roberts is a second Moses, and Beesley another Aaron!" The "ignorance and profanity" are on the side of the accuser. We believe the pitmen to have formed a very erronous estimate of the merits of Messrs. Roberts and Beesley, but that many or *any* of them labour under the delusion imputed to them, no one will credit for a moment.

COAL MINES OF FRANCE.

A GEOLOGICAL survey of France has been in progress for nearly twenty years, under the care of two very able men, Messrs. De Beaumont and Dufresnoy, and was completed three or four years ago. These able and experienced observers examined the whole surface of the country, and the large geological map which is the fruit of their labours is now in the hands of the public. Their *Explication de la Carte Geologique* will contain a complete account of the geology of the country; and the first volume, which was published in 1841, describes every portion of the *terrain houiller*, or coal formation, in great detail. Minute patches of that formation may have been overlooked, but we may be certain that no coal-field worthy of notice for its extent can have escaped them. Whoever, therefore, desires full and authentic information respecting the coal mines of France, will find it in that volume, which is accompanied with a reduced geographical map of the kingdom (twenty-one inches square), beautifully and carefully coloured. A simple inspection of that map, and a similar map of England, will satisfy any one of the comparatively small extent of coal in France. This is more distinctly set forth, however, in the 7th chapter of the volume, from which we borrow these details:—

The coal-fields of Scotland and England are estimated to occupy a twentieth part of the surface.

The coal-fields of France occupy only a two-hundredth part of the surface (seulement un deux-centieme).

The country in Europe best supplied with coal, next to Britain, is Belgium, whose coal-fields occupy a twenty-fourth part of the surface.

In France, coal of some description is widely diffused, being found in thirty-three out of the eighty-six departments; but most of the deposits are of trifling extent, and in many of them the coal is poor or bad in quality,

	Eng. Acres.
The coal-basins of France have an extent of	692,000
The coal-basins of Britain	4,900,000

All the coal-mines of France produced only 29,447,000 metrical quintals of coal, or 2,950,000 tons in 1839, which is about a sixth or seventh part of the output of those of Britain. Of this quantity, 11,842,000 metrical quintals, or more than one-third, was furnished by the mines of St. Etienne, situated 35 miles S.W. from Lyons. These mines are described as "the most important in the kingdom, from their extent, their position, and the excellent quality of the coal." They extend over 68,000 acres, and communicate with Lyons and the Rhone by railway; yet when we visited this part of France in 1839, we found that the steamers plying between Lyons and Avignon used English coal—which, we are told, cost 50s. per ton. The coal of St. Etienne must be worked under unfavourable circumstances, when English coal competes with it at such a price.

The French coal-mines, when compared with those of England, lie under other disadvantages besides those already mentioned. Their situation is generally inland; and of course they are deficient in the means of cheap conveyance which the sea affords. They are rarely accompanied with the iron ore which in England so much increases their value for manufacturing purposes, and as rarely with the limestone which serves as a flux to melt it.—*Scotsman.*

THE GATESHEAD BOROUGHHOLDERS.—The annual meeting was held in the Anchorage school-room, on Wednesday, June 12, (Mr. N. Andrews in the chair). The attendance was unusually thin. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and afterwards the accounts. The latter appeared anything but satisfactory to the auditory; showing, as they did, that the formation of a road, and the building of walls, &c., on the Windmill Hills, had cost no less than £234 17s. 5d., (in addition to which, about an equal sum would be required to Macadamize and finish the road). It appeared, also, that the Boroughholders were £300 in debt; and that the Stewards were creditors for upwards of £100—which they had disbursed more than they had received. This disastrous account of empty "bags" seemed to paralyze the meeting for a while. At last, however, the bitter pill was swallowed, and the accounts confirmed.—Mr. T. Glaholm then introduced the subject of the pulling down of the walls, strongly censuring the conduct of certain of the Borough Magistrates—who, he said, had sanctioned the "outrage;" and concluded by proposing that Sir James Graham should be applied to, to dismiss the said Justices.—Mr. James Honeyman seconded the motion, entirely concurring in the sentiments of the mover.—Mr. Swinburne stated that as the Justices had left the ground before the demolition commenced, they could not be held responsible for what was done in their absence. The appeal to the Home Office was consequently dropped.—Mr. Joseph Robson moved that the new and costly road over the hills be levelled and sown away with grass, and the hills restored to the public—a proposition which was negatived without a division.—Mr. Charles J. Pearson then gave notice that he would move, at the next meeting, that the whole of the hills (except the buildings thereon) be restored to the public—strongly commenting on the system of jobbing which had been so long carried on, and expressing his belief that no good would be done until the aforesaid jobbing was put an end to, and the house-property of the Boroughholders made secure and available, by letting the public have their free and accustomed use of the hills.—Mr. Joseph Robson subsequently proposed that the stones of which the prostrated walls were composed should be sold; but Mr. J. Lister, jun., having recommended that they should lie where they were, "stones eating no meat," the motion was not carried.—The Stewards (Messrs. N. Andrews and George Watson) were reappointed; and £5 per annum having been voted to the British Schools, the meeting separated.—[Did it never occur to Mr. Glaholm or Mr. Honeyman that the Justice or Justices, by whose authority or connivance the ancient footpaths on the hills were *filched* from the public, might have been quite as properly recommended to the consideration of the Secretary of State? Verily, the optics of some gentlemen are of the most convenient description!]

POWELL'S ALMSHOUSE.

TO BE SOLD, or LET on LEASE for the Term of 21 years, all those extensive and valuable Premises, situated in the High-street, Gateshead, and extending to Oakwellgate, known as POWELL'S ALMSHOUSE, and formerly used as the Parish Workhouse.

Persons making offers for renting the property on lease will be requested to state what sum they propose to expend on the premises, and also the purpose to which the property is intended to be appropriated.

Proposals for the purchase, or for renting the premises, will be received at the Vestry, by the Churchwardens and Overseers of Gateshead, until the 21st day of June inst., at 6 o'clock in the evening.

Further information will be given on application to the Churchwardens and Overseers.

June 6, 1844.

THE ROWLAND HILL TESTIMONIAL.

AT a MEETING of the INHABITANTS of GATESHEAD, held in the Townhall, Oakwellgate, on Monday, June 17, 1844, (WILLIAM KENNIR, Esq., Mayor, in the Chair,) it was resolved:—

Moved by George Crawshay, Esq.,

Seconded by Mr. John Fawcett,

1. That the late Reform in the Postoffice of this country, commonly called Penny Postage, is fraught with advantages, moral, social, and commercial, which cannot be too highly

Digitized by Google

estimated; and that its author, Rowland Hill, Esq., is one of the greatest benefactors of modern times.

Moved by Mr. William Rowntree,
Seconded by Joseph Price, Esq.,

2. That the resolution formed in London, and approved by public meetings in the provinces, to present to Mr. Hill some testimonial of the nation's gratitude, demands the cordial concurrence and coöperation of the inhabitants of Gateshead.

Moved by Mr. John Greene,
Seconded by Mr. Joseph Clephan,

3. That a subscription be now opened, and a Committee formed, in promotion of the "Rowland Hill Testimonial;" and that the Committee be formed of the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number:—The Worshipful the Mayor, the Town Clerk (Mr. William Kell), and Messrs. Henry Brady, W. H. Brockett, Charles Brown, John Brown, James Clephan, Joseph Clephan, George Crawshay, G. S. Dixon, William Douglas, John Fawcett, John Greene, John Potts, Joseph Price, Thomas Pringle, William Rowntree, Thomas Swinburne, Samuel Wilson, and William Wylam. Mr. Greene to be Treasurer; and Messrs. Crawshay and Pringle, Secretaries.

WILLIAM KENMIR, Mayor.

The chair having been vacated,

Moved by Mr. James Clephan,
Seconded by Mr. William Douglas,

4. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Worshipful the Mayor, for his kind compliance with the wishes of the requisitionists, and presiding over the proceedings.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE TESTIMONIAL.

W. Hutt, Esq., M.P. ..	£5	0	0	Mr. George Crawshay ..	£1	0	0
John Bowes, Esq., M.P..	5	0	0	Mr. William Rowntree ..	0	10	0
Mr. William Kell	1	1	0	Mr. James Clephan.....	0	5	0
Mr. Joseph Price.....	1	1	0	Mr. John Fawcett	0	2	6
Mr. John Greene.....	1	1	0	Mr. Joseph Clephan	0	2	6
The Mayor	1	0	0	Mr. Thomas Pringle	0	2	6
Mr. W. H. Brockett	1	0	0				

THE PITMEN'S STRIKE.

(From the *Gateshead Observer*, July 6, 1844.)

THE Coal Trade Committee made its last weekly statement as follows, being up to Saturday, June 29:—

	Hewers at Work.	Left the Union.	Chaldrons per Day.
Tyne.....	1,618	229	2,417
Wear	1,151	273	1,535
Tees	870	264	1,165
Total.....	3,639	766	5,117

A number of Welshmen arrived at Seghill on Tuesday, to take the places of the pitmen formerly employed at the colliery, but who are at present on strike. A number of persons assembled, but there was no inclination to a breach of the peace. The Welshmen are 21 in number: in North Wales, they say, they only earned per day 1s. 8d. 50 or 60 pitmen from Mostyn collieries, Flintshire, are expected next week.

The pitmen of Cramlington, Bedlington, and Ratcliffe collieries, have passed resolutions, at a public meeting, to continue the strike.

Thomas Purvis, Hannan Irwin, Ralph Miller, and John Tate, charged with creating a riot at North Elswick on the 21st of May, and with assaulting two policemen, were tried before the Recorder on Wednesday, at the Newcastle quarter sessions. Miller was acquitted. Purvis and Tate were sentenced to two months' hard labour: Irwin, a month. [The manner in which the colliery cases of this county were disposed of, at Durham sessions, will be seen in another column.]

The four pitmen who were recently committed to Durham gaol for a violent assault at Monkwearmouth colliery, and for cutting and wounding, and who were ordered, on the hearing of the case by Mr. Justice Coleridge, to be admitted to bail, have been set at liberty, the necessary recognizances having been entered into.

At Monkhesledon, near Castle Eden, on the 28th ult., Superintendent Goulé and a party of "rurals" were attempting to arrest certain unionists, charged with riot and assault, and who had taken refuge in the house of one of their number, Benjamin Greenwell. There was a desperate affray, in which Greenwell and Goulé were dangerously wounded—the former with a cutlass, and the latter with an adze and iron lever. Others were also hurt on both sides. The whole of the rioters were captured, and lodged in Durham gaol; with the exception of Greenwell—who was taken to the infirmary.

Seven families were on Monday "turned out" at Monkwearmouth colliery. They were all received into other houses. One house-owner in Monkwearmouth offered them three houses, rent-free, until August term,

"John Hebden" has sent us a saucy letter, contradicting the statement that young Alsop had died of starvation, and insinuating that the report of his death, and of its cause, was fabricated to frighten the unionists! The statement, as we last week acknowledged, was copied from the *Newcastle Journal*. Mr. Hebden says that the young man is alive and well. We are glad to hear it.

"Edward R. Dixon, Derwent iron-works," has sent us, "in behalf of the men on the colliery," and as "an eye-witness to their peaceable conduct," the following communication:—

"In consequence of the unfortunate dispute between the coalowners and the pitmen, the former have lately had recourse to ejecting the men from their houses by force; consequently hundreds of families have now neither home nor shelter, being *camped* upon pieces of waste land, in byeroads, &c. We are sorry to state that the owners of the Derwent iron-works colliery have had recourse to this sad expedient. On Monday last, they commenced to turn their late workmen to the door. William Cargill, Esq., on the part of the owners, accompanied by the superintendent of police and six others, and assisted by two off-handed men on the work and four strangers from Newcastle, commenced to remove the men's goods to the door, as early as 8 o'clock in the morning. Mr. E. Richardson, who, we are informed, is the delegate for the colliery, was the first who was turned out, Mr. Cargill assisting to carry out the furniture. Mr. Richardson refusing to walk to the door after his furniture, was actually carried out; and he immediately jumped upon the form on which he was carried to the door, and commenced addressing the hundreds of assembled people, who had come from several places, and some a distance of 20 miles, to see the men turned out. During the time the proceedings were going on, an instrumental band of music, accompanied by a large vocal band, formed a procession, and played and sung through the village; and on their arrival on the part of ground where the work of turning out was going on, E. Richardson mounted a chair, and delivered another address to listening hundreds. Several other demonstrations of spirit were made on the part of the men, in which the public took great interest.—After thirteen families had been turned out, contrary to the expectation of every one, no more were removed. Several parties were actively engaged in furnishing tables during the proceedings; after which, upwards of 700 persons sat down to a most excellent dinner, consisting of beef, mutton, ham, pies, &c., &c., voluntarily provided by the inhabitants of Black Hill and Shotley Bridge, in order to show their disapproval of these harsh proceedings, and to give an exhibition of public sympathy in behalf of the men. Several short addresses were delivered during the dinner; the utmost good feeling and kindly spirit was displayed; and, indeed, the dinner was conducted in a manner that does credit to all parties, and all seemed perfectly satisfied. After dinner, a public meeting was held. Mr. J. Oley, of Shotley Bridge, was unanimously called to the chair, and, in a splendid manner, opened the business of the meeting. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. J. Coxon, enginewright, J. Emery, mason, W. Atkinson, mason, E. Richardson, miner, and two others, whose names we did not ascertain. The speeches were such as gave great satisfaction: many of the statements were loudly cheered. The meeting was conducted, and separated, in the most orderly manner. It should be stated, that nearly 40 joiners and blacksmiths are employed on the work, and only two would consent to assist in turning the men out of their dwellings; consequently for this refusal they have been discharged from the work. Instead of intimidating the men, which it would appear is an object in ejecting them, it appears to have a contrary effect, making the men more determined than ever. And that the inhabitants strongly disapprove of this system, the meeting and dinner sufficiently prove."

We cannot insert this report without also expressing our opinion on the subject. Does our correspondent mean to contend that the unionists should be allowed to occupy the houses of the coalowners for ever? The men have struck work. They had a perfect right to do so—and the coalowners would have had an equal right to eject them from their cottages several weeks ago. But they forebore to do so, in the hope of a speedy arrangement, and resumption of work. That hope has been disappointed. The owners and their former workmen cannot come to terms. New men must therefore be sought; and these men will require the houses of the unionists. We deplore the strike, and would rejoice to witness a reconciliation between the coalowners and their old workmen; but we cannot concur in directing odium against the masters, because, having forborne to resume possession of their property, they at length determine to forbear no longer. Mr. Richardson, we repeat, had a right to withhold his labour from Mr. Cargill and his partners: he had no right, in addition, to withhold from them their house. What would he and Mr. E. R. Dixon say, if Messrs. Cargill & Co. were to attempt, with force of arms, to compel them to give their labour in the mine?

Digitized by Google

THE COAL TRADE.

ADDRESS of the SPECIAL COMMITTEE of the COAL TRADE to the COALOWNERS of the counties of NORTHUMBERLAND and DURHAM, on the subject of the PITMEN'S STRIKE.

For the causes of the strike your Committee refer to the Resolutions of the General Meeting of the Coal Trade of the 13th of April last; to the Report of this Committee of the 27th of the same month; and to the Answer of the Committee, dated the 13th instant, to the Allegations in the Speech of the Hon. T. S. Duncombe, in the House of Commons, on the 4th instant; only here begging to recapitulate, that it has been proved by actual and incontrovertible Returns, that the wages during the past year, and which the coalowners have offered to continue for the current year, are sufficient to enable the hewers on the average to earn 3s. 8d. in a working day of eight hours, free and clear of all deductions; in addition to which they have fire-coal provided for them, and, in almost every instance, their houses and gardens rent free; and to each able-bodied young man employed in putting, or two boys acting in the same capacity, the sum of 3s. 6d. per day of twelve hours, and others in proportion.

Notwithstanding the foregoing rates of wages, unequalled for similar labour in the kingdom, and the ruinous depression of the Coal Trade, the workmen have struck to obtain fully 28 per cent. average advance upon these prices, together with such other requirements as would place in a great degree the collieries beyond the control of their masters. To accede to these demands would occasion the immediate abandonment of many collieries, or lead to such enhancement in the price as materially to curtail the export of coal from these counties. Under these circumstances the coalowners have resolved to oppose the most determined resistance to the unreasonable demands of their late workmen, and the Committee have the satisfaction to congratulate the trade on the perfect unanimity of their representatives.

The "Strike" having now continued upwards of twelve weeks, without any certainty of an early termination, the Special Committee feel called upon to bring the existing state of affairs under the particular notice of the trade.

The Committee have to express their regret that the humane forbearance of the coalowners in permitting the general body of their late workmen to continue for so long a period in the occupation of the colliery houses, has not at all been appreciated by the latter; but, on the contrary, regarded with perverseness and thanklessness, and as a matter of right rather than one of favour; and it is too manifest that, by actual assaults, turbulence, and intimidation, endeavours have been constantly, and, in many instances, successfully made, by the parties thus suffered to remain in possession of the property of the owners, to prevent the employment of other workmen willing to engage on the collieries.

The coalowners, and indeed the inhabitants of these districts, cannot be too grateful to the Lord Lieutenants, Magistracy, and other parties entrusted with the administration of the law, for the very judicious and prompt manner in which their duties have been respectively and efficiently performed. That the general peace has not been maintained without most persevering attention, is proved by the very great number of persons who have been committed or held to bail since the commencement of the strike.

The Committee fully appreciate the great and effective exertions which have been made for the bringing the collieries into active operation. Already are 3,639 men employed in hewing coals, of whom 766 have left the pitmen's union; and the produce of their labour is 5,117 chaldrons per day, equivalent to about 3,729,000 tons per annum, and exceeding by 1,269,546 tons the entire quantity imported into London from this district in the year 1843. The number of workmen resorting to the pits, and the consequent produce, are steadily augmenting, as proved by the weekly returns; and the Committee recommend that liberal encouragement be afforded to new workmen not previously employed as coal miners, and that they be assured of permanent employment.

The Committee would observe, that the duration of the present strike is, perhaps, one of the strongests proofs that can be adduced of the former actual comforts enjoyed, and property and credit possessed, by the collieries of these counties, and which have enabled them to subsist for twelve weeks in idleness, without, it is believed, material privation to themselves or families. In truth, the colliers of Northumberland and Durham have never felt the vicissitudes in the rate of their earnings that have been experienced in the manufacturing counties; as, when prices have been greatly depressed, the coalowners have been the principal sufferers.

In conclusion, the Committee have to express their hope, rather than their expectation, that the workmen may be induced to see the folly of their proceedings, and, in the hopelessness of success, perceive the inevitable ruin in which they are involving themselves and families.

Great forbearance has hitherto been exercised in bringing into these districts workmen from distant places, on account of the misery which such a proceeding must necessarily entail upon the misguided pitmen; it being obvious that great numbers of them must in that case be left without employment, and themselves and their families consequently reduced to a state of destitution. The time, however, has at length arrived, when this system of forbearance can no longer be adhered to. The trade must now have recourse to the extreme measure of obtaining a supply of workmen from other parts of the United Kingdom. The adoption of this measure involves the necessity of providing houses for the workmen to be so brought into these counties, and the consequent ejection of those who are now in possession, and who were only placed there upon condition that they should occupy them in their character of workmen, and consequently quit them when they should cease to perform their duty in that capacity.

Coal Trade Office, Newcastle-upon-Tyne,
June 29, 1844.

PITMEN'S STRIKE.

IN consequence of the misapprehension prevalent in the district, with reference to the Marquis of Londonderry's numerous Colliery Workmen, we publish the following Communication of the Noble Marquis to his Viewer, from which his Lordship's disposition and determination on the subject of the existing strike will be best understood:—

(COPY.)
Wynyard Park, June 16th, 1844.

The Marquis of Londonderry directs Mr. Hunter immediately to call the Viewers, Overmen, and Deputies together, and acquaint them that he sees with the deepest regret his deluded workmen have now been near ten weeks in open defiance of the anxious, just, and paternal consideration of their employer, and of his anxious desire to meet all their legitimate demands. He gave them due warning, two weeks ago, that if they did not return to their work, they would compel him, in spite of himself, to take the most painful and energetic measures to rescue his property from destruction. The time has now arrived when he can be no longer kept in jeopardy by their caprice, and by the insidious advice they are following, to fight up the grievances of others, having admitted to him they have none themselves. He therefore directs Mr. Hunter and the Viewers to take measures, immediately, to remove from his houses such men as refuse their work, and have no possible right, after ten weeks' patience on the part of Lord Londonderry, to occupy his premises, and keep possession of his property. Lord Londonderry will be at Pensher in the course of to-morrow to see these orders carried into effect.

(Signed) VANE LONDONDERRY,
Lord Lieutenant.

GATESHEAD TOWN COUNCIL.

p WILLIAM KENNIR, Esq., Mayor.

ALDERMEN.	COUNCILLORS.		
Barras, John	Bertram, C.	Hymers, J.	Robson, D.
p Brockett, W. H.	p Cummins, T.	p Kent, Samuel	p Robson, J.
Pollock, James	Dunn, Charles	Lister, J., sen.	p Smith, James
Sowerby, G.	p Edward, J.	p Lister, J., jun.	Sowerby, T.
p Wilson, Thos.	p Garbutt, C.	p Potts, John	Wilson, J. R.
p Davis, Robert		p Revely, T.	p Wylam, Ralph

[Those marked p were present.]

THE Town Council held a short meeting on the 3d July.—Mr. REVELY presented a Report from the Town Improvement Committee. Having considered the complaint of Mr. T. Glaholm as to the well opposite Mulgrave-terrace, they had resolved that they had no power to interfere with the rights of the public, and remove what the applicant considered a nuisance.

Digitized by Google

[The spring has been provided with a reservoir, and the supply of water enlarged, for the greater accommodation of the inhabitants, at the sole charge of the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Durham.] The committee proceeded to say, that they had restored the well in the middle, and also the one on the north side, of Greene's-field. Summonses had been applied for against Mr. George Greene and the Brandling Junction Company—the former for a nuisance in Bankwell-lane—the latter for an encroachment on the footpath at the Bankhead, near the old rectory; and the owners of three houses at the lower end of West-street had been called on to remove certain flights of stone steps, erected on the public footpath. Mr. James Hymers had been summoned before the magistrates for unauthorizedly removing the quay in front of a house in High-street, and breaking the footpath; but the summons was dismissed, Mr. Hymers alleging that the quay was private property, and that the pavement was broken by accident. The committee requested to be instructed whether or not the quay was private property; and if not, what was to be done?

The Report, which referred to one or two other matters, was received and adopted.

The MAYOR observed that the question of title in the quay was not brought before the magistrates. A charge was made of damage done to the footpath, and it was shown to have been accidental.

After some conversation, it was resolved that the quay was *not* private property, and that the case of Mr. Hymers be referred back to the committee.

Reports were presented from the Watch and the Lighting Committees, containing matters of little novelty or importance.

Mr. Ald. BROCKETT gave notice, that if an inquiry should not be previously instituted by parliament, into the disgraceful practice which, it seemed, had been lately resorted to at the General Postoffice, of opening letters, and re-sealing them with forged seals, so as to prevent detection of the fact that the letters had been tampered with, he would move, at the next meeting, a resolution on the subject. [Mr. B. laid before the Council several lead seals, struck from impressions on wax, to show the facility with which the forgery in question can be practised.]

The MAYOR said, it was a pity any law existed to countenance such a practice.

Mr. BROCKETT replied that there was no law for the worst feature of the practice—the forgery of seals. The opening of letters was virtue itself in comparison with the deception by which it was concealed.

The MAYOR said it was all bad together, and he was sorry there was any law on the subject.—The Council separated.

STATISTICS OF PETTY SESSIONS.—Lord Worsley, M.P., has obtained *further* Returns on the subject of petty sessions—from which we compile the following table:—

District.	Years.	Fees of Clerk.	Convictions.	Fines.	Costs.	Sending to Prison.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Easington	1840	4 10 0	83	53 11 5	38 6 9	1 3 6
	1841	16 2 0				
	1842	23 10 0				
Gateshead	1840	About	155	98 6 9½	70 12 4	17 17 0
	1841	£150	163	108 15 2	80 14 6	17 6 6
	1842	per ann.	166	130 16 3	82 9 6	28 1 0
Gateshead District, East - Chester Ward	1840	About	103	66 8 2	67 12 0	5 15 6
	1841	£160	76	36 11 7	68 8 4	9 19 6
	1842	per ann.	77	44 14 0	56 3 0	13 12 6
Houghton	1840	177 9 0	270	133 3 0	91 18 8	0 12 0
	1841	159 9 0				
	1842	147 7 6				
Yarm	1840	144 0 7	124	83 15 7	41 19 9	43 6 8
	1841	99 3 9	107	18 19 0	56 8 10	27 18 0
	1842	86 15 6	46	120 11 9	24 10 3	22 3 9

In cases where the penalties were not paid, the terms of imprisonment varied from seven days to three months. Under the head of "Remarks on Extreme Cases of Fines, Penalties, and Costs," the magistrates' clerks furnish the following information:—

Easington (established September 1840).—Assault: fine, £4 13s. 6d.: costs, 7s.—Ditto: fine, 5s.: costs, £1 10s.—Trespass: fine, £3: costs, 8s. 6d.—Ditto: fine, 3d.: costs, 14s. 9d.

Gateshead Borough—Excise offence: fine, £25: costs, 10s.—Assault: fine, £2: costs, £3.—Trespass on railway: fine, £5: costs, 7s. 6d.—Wilful damage: fine, 2s.: costs, £1 8s. 6d.

Gateshead District.—Game trespass: fine, £5: costs, £1.—Assault: fine, £1: costs, £4.—Assault: fine, £3: costs, 13s. 6d.—Wilful damage: fine, 1s. 6d.: costs, £3 10.—Garden-breaking: fine, £1: costs, 8s.—Assault: fine, 2s. 6d.: costs, £1 1s.

Houghton.—Selling ale without a license: fine, £5: costs, 8s. 6d.—Assault: fine, 2s. 6d.: costs, £1.—Keeping cockpit: fine, £2 10s.: costs, 4s. 8d.—Assault: fine, 1s.: costs, 12s. 6d.

Yarm.—Penalty, £100: costs, £7 11s. 6d.—Fine, 14s. 6d.: costs, £7 15s. 6d.—Penalty, £10: costs, 17s.—Fine, £2 12s.: costs, £2 8s.—Fine, £4 7s. 6d.: costs, 7s. 6d.—Fine, 3s.: costs, £1 17s.

COUNTY RATE IN ENGLAND.—From a Parliamentary Return, printed in May last, we extract the following details:—

	County Rate in 1842.	Proportion in the £ to Valuation.	Per Acre.	Per Head.
Cumberland	£11,172	.. 5¾d.	.. 2¾d.	.. 15d.
Durham	9,411	.. 2¼d.	.. 3¼d.	.. 6¾d.
Northumberland	6,053	.. 1¼d.	.. 1¼d.	.. 5¾d.
Westmoreland	2,846	.. 2¼d.	.. 1¼d.	.. 12d.
East York	9,285	.. 3d.	.. 2¾d.	.. 9¼d.
North York	12,000	.. 3¾d.	.. 2d.	.. 14d.
West York	49,592	.. 5¼d.	.. 7¼d.	.. 10¼d.

The proportion in the pound of county-rate to valuation is highest in Bedfordshire, viz., 1s. 0¼d.; and lowest in Lancashire and Northumberland, viz., 1¼d. The county-rate per acre is highest in Middlesex, viz., 9s. 8¼d.; and lowest in Northumberland and Westmoreland, viz., 1¼d. The county rate per head is highest in Lincolnshire, viz., 1s. 8½d.; and lowest in Northumberland, viz., 5¾d. The average proportion in the pound of county-rate to valuation in England is 3¼d.; per acre, 4¾d.; and per head, 10¾d. It must be borne in mind, that these deductions are drawn from the area and population of each entire county, *exclusive* of cities and boroughs not contributing to the county-rates, and not included in the valuation.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BAPTIST CHURCHES.—The *Anti-Monopolist* of the present month contains a tabular statement to the following effect:—

1843-44.	Newcastle.	Hamsterley.	Rowley.	Bromley.	N. Shields.	S. Shields.	Stockton.	Middleton.	Wolsingham.	Brough.
Increase:—										
Baptized	12	1	4	3	21	49	4	8	0	10
By letter	0	2	3	0	8	1	6	4	0	1
Restored	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Decrease:—										
Died	1	0	0	1	1	5	0	0	1	0
By letter	1	0	3	0	4	0	1	0	0	0
Withdrew	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Expelled	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Clear increase	14	3	4	2	24	46	6	12	0	11
Clear decrease	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total number	200	72	48	48	200	135	70	78	23	90
Village station	1	10	7	10	8	1	6	3	4	14
Children in S. Schools..	300	39	60	50	120	160	60	0	60	150
Teachers	48	6	12	18	24	36	9	0	10	24

It hence appears that the Baptist churches in the North of England are increasing in numbers.

NEWCASTLE AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY. — The July time-table contains one or two alterations. We therefore publish, in our present number, the following extract, showing the times at which the trains leave Gateshead and Darlington, and arrive at their destinations:—

Leave Darlington.	Arrive in Gateshead.	Leave Gateshead.	Arrive in Darlington.
7 30	9 30	6 0	7 45†
9 0*	10 50†	9 0	10 30†
11 45	1 40	10 30	12 20
3 45	5 40	2 0*	3 55†
6 30*	8 30	4 0	6 0
7 25*	9 15	6 0	8 0
9 40*	11 30†	10 50*	12 48†
* Come from London. † Mail-trains.		* Mail-trains. † Go to London.	

There are third-class carriages by the 7½, 11¾, and 6½ o'clock trains from Darlington to Gateshead; and by the 6, 10½, and 4 o'clock trains from Gateshead to Darlington; and on market-days third-class tickets are issued at all the intermediate sta-

Digitized by Google

tions, for Gateshead, Durham, and Darlington, at reduced prices. All the trains take passengers to and from Durham, with the exception of the mail-train that leaves Gateshead in the night.

NEWCASTLE *versus* GATESHEAD:—THE 37TH REGIMENT.—We have heard, with much astonishment, that in a memorial which has been this week in course of signature in Newcastle, praying that the 37th Regiment may not be removed from its present quarters, is contained an imputation—a grossly unfounded imputation—upon the inhabitants of Gateshead, to the effect that the statements in their memorial for the *removal* of the 37th Regiment were greatly exaggerated; and it has superadded regret to our astonishment, to be informed that the Newcastle memorial has had appended to it the signatures of the Mayor, the Recorder, and the Sheriff, and that it is being hawked about by a Clerk of the Under Sheriff. We have been told, also, that certain gentlemen—some high in authority—have been asked to sign this imputation upon the veracity of the people of Gateshead, without being furnished with a copy of the Gateshead memorial, and therefore without the means of knowing whether the declaration they were solicited to sign was true or false. The Recorder, being a judge as well a lawyer, would of course require to be furnished with the necessary evidence, before pronouncing sentence upon our townsmen:—he, we cannot for a moment doubt, would require the production of the Gateshead document, before he declared its statements to be exaggerated. But we see no reason why Mayors and Sheriffs, as well as Recorders, should not exhibit, on such occasions, an equal degree of caution as well as fairness. It is no slight offence, we can tell Sir John Fife, to lend the weight of his high office to an imputation of this kind; and it is one which we, in justice to the people of this borough, cannot, and will not, allow to pass, unnoticed and uncensured. We put entirely out of the question the propriety of retaining or removing the regiment. The people of Newcastle collectively, or the Mayor, Recorder, or Sheriff of that town, individually, have a perfect right to express themselves as favourably as they please of the 37th Regiment. But we utterly deny the right of either Sir John Fife, or any other person, to ask the public to call in question the veracity of a community, without furnishing the evidence upon which so serious a charge is founded. No one knows better, we are persuaded—or, at least, no one *ought* to know better—than the present Mayor of Newcastle, that nothing less than a serious sense of duty would have drawn these remarks from us—who, on all proper occasions, (and they have been not a few,) have felt pleasure in defending *him* from the attacks of *his* calumniators. We are sorry, very sorry, that we cannot approve of his present treatment of the memorialists of Gateshead.——[The following correspondence between one of the Gateshead memorialists and the Mayor of Newcastle has taken place on this subject:—

LETTER FROM MEMORIALIST.

21, Bridge-street, Gateshead, July 4, 1844.

SIR,—It has been stated to me that a memorial is in course of signature in Newcastle, in favour of the 37th Regiment, which describes the Gateshead memorial *as containing an exaggerated statement of facts*. I have also been informed that your signature is attached to the Newcastle memorial. May I take the liberty of inquiring, as one of the Gateshead memorialists, if the character of the memorial from Newcastle has been correctly described to me? Perhaps you would oblige me with a copy of it?

Trusting that you will excuse the trouble I am giving you,

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

To Sir John Fife. C. GARBUTT.

REPLY OF THE MAYOR.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, July 5, 1844.

SIR,—To the best of my recollection, the memorial you refer to expressed an apprehension that the statements might have been exaggerated; but I read it hastily, and saw nothing more of it, nor had I anything to do with it, having been ignorant that such a document was contemplated, till it was brought to me on Wednesday morning.

Your obedient Servant,

To Mr. C. Garbutt, Gateshead. JOHN FIFE.

We have perused Sir John Fife's reply with much pain, showing, as it does, his readiness to believe, *without evidence*, that the people of Gateshead were *capable* of doing that with which, we have been assured, the Newcastle memorial positively charged them—viz., sending a "greatly exaggerated" statement to the Commander-in-Chief. We have seen the Gateshead memorial, and we declare (and it shall be published if necessary) that its statements ARE NOT IN THE LEAST EXAGGERATED.—ED. G. O.]

THE ROWLAND-HILL TESTIMONIAL.

AT a MEETING of the NORTHERN COMMITTEE, held (by permission) in the Lecture Room of the Literary and Philosophical Society, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, (ANTHONY NICHOL, Esq., J.P., in the chair,) it was resolved:—

1. That to secure the success of the National Testimonial to Rowland Hill, Esq., in Newcastle, Subscriptions shall be solicited, personally and generally, throughout the borough.

2. That the Committee shall form themselves into sections, for carrying this resolution into effect in the different districts of the borough.

3. That these resolutions be advertised in the several newspapers of Newcastle and Gateshead; and that from time to time, at the discretion of the Committee, a List of Subscriptions shall be advertised.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
The Northumberland and Durham District Bank	£5	5	0	John Shield	£1	1	0
The Union Bank	5	5	0	Joseph Laycock	1	1	0
Christian Allhusen	5	5	0	Samuel Stokoe	1	1	0
Newcastle Broad and Crown Glass Company	2	2	0	Henry Hunt	1	1	0
Locke, Blackett, & Co.	2	2	0	Stella Coal Company	1	1	0
John Lee & Co.	2	2	0	A. Donkin	1	1	0
Sewell & Donkin	2	2	0	Thomas Burnett	1	1	0
Losh, Wilson, & Bell	2	2	0	Atkinson & Philipson	1	1	0
Robert Stephenson & Co.,	2	2	0	Charles Rayne	1	1	0
Thomas Sopwith	2	2	0	Robert Storey	1	1	0
Joseph Lamb, J.P.	2	2	0	Blackbird & Hunter	1	1	0
Anthony Nichol, J.P.	1	1	0	James Gilpin	1	1	0
William Armstrong	1	1	0	J. Blackwell & Co.	1	1	0
James Losh	1	1	0	Clarke & Dunn	1	1	0
Capt. J. D. Weatherley	1	1	0	John Carr	1	1	0
T. M. Greenhow	1	1	0	J. T. Carr	1	0	0
G. H. Ramsay, J.P.	1	1	0	J. Hunter	0	10	6
H. & J. Redhead	1	1	0	John Harvey	0	10	6
I. Ayton & Sons	1	1	0	T. Y. Hall	0	10	6
J. Pollard & Co.	1	1	0	William Cargill	0	10	6
H. & P. Nairn	1	1	0	H. Ingledew	0	10	6
Wylam & Greene	1	1	0	W. G. Armstrong	0	10	6
S. Lowrey	1	1	0	Redshaw & Ridley	0	10	6
A. L. Potter, J.P.	1	1	0	James Finlay	0	10	6
R. P. Philipson, J.P.	1	1	0	Robert Robinson	0	10	6
Joseph Grote	1	1	0	John Mather	0	10	6
Joseph Watson	1	1	0	Andrew Gray	0	10	6
D. B. White, M.D.	1	1	0	R. M. & M. Allan	0	10	6
A. Parker	1	1	0	W. A. Brooks	0	10	6
Sir John Fife	1	1	0	John Allen & Co.	0	10	0
M. Plummer	1	1	0	John Ormston	0	10	0
				John Nichol	0	10	0
				Mr. Spencer T. Hall	8	15	0

☞ Subscriptions will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, J. D. Weatherley, Esq.; or at any of the Banks.

SONNET TO A CHILD.

(By DAVID LESTER RICHARDSON, Author of "Literary Leaves, or Prose and Verse.")

THOU lovely child! when I behold the smile
Over thy rosy features brightly play,
As darts on rippling waves the morning ray,
Thy fair and open brow upraised the while,
Untouched by withering fears of worldly guile,
Nor taught thy trusting bosom to betray,
Thy sinless graces win my soul away
From dreams and thoughts that darken and defile!
Scion of Beauty! if a stranger's eye
Thus linger on thee—if his bosom's pain,
Charm'd by thy cherub lips, forget to smart,
O! how unutterably sweet *her* joy!
O! how indissolubly firm the chain
That binds with links of love thy *mother's* heart!

St. Helier's, Jersey, June, 1844.

SONNET.

NAY! string not words together, and then call
The motley group a reason strong to prove
That those who have loved once, again may love;
Your fashion'd phrases, unavailing all
To free but one poor captive heart from thrall.
Oh! how it mocks sweet Nature to suppose
She can be made subserve to trickster Art,
So far as to enact a truant's part:
By her own wise resolves, to humour those
Who seek two buds to make one perfect rose!
They never loved who say they can forget
The fairy fictions which entranced the boy;
And true love's gift bears with it no regret,
As gold alone is pure without alloy.

Newcastle, June, 1844. JOHN LUKE CLENNELL.

Digitized by Google

THE PITMEN'S STRIKE.

(From the *Gateshead Observer*, July 13, 1844.)

THE Marquis of Londonderry has addressed a second letter to his pitmen; which, if not written in the most classical style, is characterized by good feeling — and that is something better than good English. After alluding to his long forbearance, and to his despised admonitions, his lordship says:— "I have now brought forty Irishmen to the pits; and I will give you all *one more week's notice*. And if by the 13th of this month a large body of my pitmen do not return to their labour, I will obtain one hundred more men, and proceed to eject that number, who now are illegally and unjustly in possession of my houses; and in the following week another hundred shall follow." His lordship, with admirable good grace, lectures the men on their "stupid and insane union!" The noble marquis, himself a member of a "stupid and insane union," should hold his tongue on *this* subject. But Lord Londonderry is not endowed with "absolute wisdom."

William Wharton Burdon, Esq., owner of Team colliery, entertained his men at dinner on the 4th inst., in testimony of his approbation of their steadiness and good conduct during the whole of the present strike. Four tables were spread for 150 persons, who sat down to good solid fare, consisting of cold joints of beef and mutton, with plenty of good ale. After the usual loyal toasts were drank with great enthusiasm, Mr. Burdon took occasion to address them on their present position, as compared with their late companions now unemployed; congratulated them on their prudence and good sense in returning to work at the binding; drew a powerful contrast between the comfort enjoyed by themselves, and the misery, poverty, and folly which characterized those who still remained off work; applauded them for not yielding up their opinions to a party who wished to mislead them, but acting on their own judgment and good sense; regretted the present state of things, and hoped they would use their endeavours to persuade the other men to resume work, as the greatest kindness they could do them; said that, in future, all differences of opinion, if laid before him, should receive his attention, and be adjusted as far as possible; congratulated them on their good conduct during the length of time many of them had been on the colliery, and trusted they would long continue to remain there. The men seemed to enter into the spirit of the address, and to feel the advantageous position they now occupied, as compared with their less fortunate comrades. After addresses from Mr. Barkus (their viewer), Mr. Nesbitt (the agent), and others connected with the establishment, they all retired in great harmony, highly gratified with the kindness of their employer.

The unionists assembled on Shadon's Hill (Black Fell), to the number of at least 20,000, on Monday last, with flags and banners. — Mr. Thomas Hay, who was called to the chair, exhorted the turn-outs to be peaceable and orderly in their resistance to "the tyrants of the coal-office." Mr. Norman, of Thornley colliery, moved the first resolution:—

"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the masters' monthly agreements are calculated to break up our union and destroy our liberty as Englishmen; therefore this meeting pledges itself to resist it by all legal and constitutional means."

The monthly agreement (said Mr. N.) would degrade the pitman to the level of the handloom-weaver and the Russian serf. Mr. James Hardy, of Kibblesworth, seconded the resolution.— Mr. Benjamin Watson, of Scotland, stated, in support of it, that in North Wales and in Scotland monthly agreements had placed the colliers completely in the power of their employers, and reduced them to a condition of poverty and misery.—The resolution having been carried, Mr. Joseph Fawcett, of West Moor, moved:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting the struggle in which we are engaged is one of justice and righteousness; and, based upon these principles, it cannot fail to triumph; therefore this meeting pledges itself to continue the holy contest until our just claims are acceded to."

Mr. George Charlton, of South Shields, seconded the motion, and said, that the masters, in their weekly statement, took care to name the number of men that had *left* the union, but it ought also to be known that 2,817 men had *joined* the union, since the strike commenced.—The motion was supported by Mr. E. Richardson, of Derwent iron-works, and passed.—Mr. Joseph Beeston moved:—

"That after the diabolical attempt of our masters to force us into a breach of the peace, this meeting pledges itself to keep within the pale of the law, by firmly adhering to the principles and objects of the Miners' Association."

Seconded by Mr. Thomas Pratt, of Castle Eden, supported by Mr. Robert Archer, of South Hetton, and adopted by the meeting.—Mr. Christopher Haswell moved:—

"That the thanks of this meeting are due, and are hereby given, to the trades of London, Edinburgh, Manchester, and Newcastle, the carpet weavers of Durham and Barnard Castle, the trades in the various other towns, and to the miners generally of the United Kingdom, for the support they have rendered during our present struggle; and we trust they will continue the same until our contest is brought to a successful close; and we pledge ourselves to assist them in return, should they ever be placed in like circumstances."

Mr. Daniels, editor of the *Miners' Advocate*, seconded the resolution, and, like its predecessors, it was passed unanimously.— Thanks were given to the Chairman, and the meeting was dissolved.

On Thursday evening, a crowded public meeting was held in the Nelson-street lecture-room, Newcastle, (Mr. Daniels in the chair). Messrs. James Hardy, Joseph Fawcett, and George Charlton having first spoken, Mr. Edward Richardson rose in reply to the Marquis of Londonderry's last letter to his pitmen. With regard to the first statement of the noble lord, viz., that "3,639 men were employed in hewing coals," he could only say, there were not more than 2,000, including off-handed men, Irishmen, Welshmen, &c. As to "766 sensible men having left the union," why the fact was there were not 400; and even these were old hands, such as shifters, wastemen, deputies, &c. But were it really true that 766 men had left the union, the Marquis omitted to state that 3,000 had joined it since the commencement of the strike. As to "the produce of their labour being 5,117 chaldrons per day," that, of course, must also lie under doubt; but whether or not, the assertion that this amount of coal, produced by so few and inefficient hands, met the present demand of the markets, and especially at a time when 30,000 colliers were wholly unemployed, was too much to be believed by any one. The new hands, too, introduced into the collieries, were discontented, and leaving. 12 Irishmen at one colliery, and 14 at another, belonging to the Marquis of Londonderry, had already left; 36 more had gone from Seaton Delaval and Cramlington; and the "black legs" themselves had actually struck work at Whitley colliery.

Yesterday, at the Gateshead police-office, Oakwellgate, Anthony Wild, Thos. Grieveson, James Taylor, John Mehary, and George Smith, of the Blue Quarries, pitmen "on strike," were charged with assaulting and beating William Green, of Ayton Banks, pitman, (late of Staffordshire). The plaintiff, a "blackleg," had been to Newcastle on Saturday, and was returning to Springwell colliery, and was attacked and maltreated by the defendants, whose notion of the "rights of man" was apparently this:—That a man should do whatever he pleased himself, and thrash any other man who did the same! The magistrates fined the offenders £5 each: in default of payment, two months' imprisonment. (Mr. Stoker appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Roberts for the defence.)

The Northumberland magistrates met on Monday, at the Moothall, Newcastle, to consider the propriety of requesting that a military force be stationed in the colliery districts—a party of infantry at Killingworth, and a troop of horse near Seaton Delaval. A number of coalowners, viewers, &c., were heard on the subject; and the bench, although not unanimous, passed a resolution in favour of the proposal, and gave instructions that a copy of it be forwarded to the Lord Lieutenant (the Duke of Northumberland). It was also communicated, forthwith, to Colonel Bradshaw.

Hitherto (says a correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*) the pitmen have been supported chiefly by mendicancy, the houses in the immediate neighbourhood of the collieries and in the city of Durham being frequently visited by fifty persons asking alms in one day. The magistrates of the county have now resolved to interfere in this matter, and have given orders to the police to apprehend all persons found transgressing the law in this particular. Where they intend to confine them is not stated: certainly it cannot be in the county gaol. During the present week, two offences of a diabolical nature were perpetrated near Bishop Auckland. It appears that early on Tuesday, some of the pitmen now on strike (one of whom can be identified) broke in the windows and doors of Ralph Simpson, a "black-leg" living in Blind-lane End, and now employed at Brokenback colliery. They afterwards fired a gun through the window, the charge of which lodged in the wall above the bed where Simpson was sleeping. The

Digitized by Google

scoundrels, on the alarm being given, made off. A similar outrage was committed at Woodhouse the same morning. Two poor men, Irish navigators, were killed at Thornley colliery one day this week, by the rope breaking as they were descending the shaft. On their bodies being brought to bank, a mob, consisting principally of women, assembled arround the disfigured corpses, and hailed them with shouting and marks of rejoicing. This fact shows the bitter and almost fiendish feeling which is being engendered by the strike.

The number of hewers employed in the pits of the two counties, up to Saturday last, was 3,975; number of men that have left the union, 889; and number of chaldrons raised per day, 5,541; showing an increase during the week of 336 hewers, 123 seceders, and 424 chaldrons.

PITMEN'S STRIKE.

AN ADDRESS FROM THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE COAL-MINERS TO THE COALOWNERS OF NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM.

GENTLEMEN,—The Pitmen of Northumberland and Durham have been off work now three months, and to all appearance will hold out for many weeks longer, sooner than go to work on the terms offered by your agents, "*the viewers;*" and they are seemingly as determined not to agree to the terms offered by the men. Thus the parties are at opposite extremes, and one or both parties must be considered not only culpable but also amenable for any amount of distress or privation to which hundreds of other persons are subjected, through the protracted nature of the strike, seeing they do not move from the position first taken up, so as to meet and make some approximation to an amicable adjustment of all differences.

For the causes of the present strike your own Committee refer to the resolutions of the Coal Trade, on three previous dates, more particularly to the allegations in the speech of T. S. Duncombe, Esq., in the House of Commons, on the 4th of June. A very considerable amount of reasoning has been expended on what that honourable gentleman said, relative to the position taken by the men for the purpose of obtaining an advance of wages, and further, for refusing to comply with monthly bonds, together with their manifold objections to the previous bonds, which objections were made known to your agents, on each and every colliery, as early as the month of November, 1843; and what was the result? Were they attended to? No! they were treated with silent contempt; and every other measure was adopted which the pitmen could devise, for the purpose of coming to an amicable agreement, without having recourse to that last of all resources, a cessation from labour. Here the question may probably be asked, What means were resorted to? We answer, first, we made known to the Coal Trade Committee our views relative to the illegality of our bonds; secondly, we pointed out the reductions previously made on our wages; thirdly, that we intended seeking to obtain an advance on our wages; fourthly, we objected (and do still object) to fines and forfeitures for what is technically called "*laid-out*" and "*set-out*," being of that stringent nature which has characterized them hitherto, and demand to be paid by *weight instead of measure*, and that all the colliers be paid for all good coals sent to bank, as nothing seems so unreasonable as that a man should send to bank what he expects is 6½ cwt. of coals, and if there be one quart deficient of that quantity the hewer loses the value of the whole tub! and, notwithstanding, should any of the said tubs be found to contain a greater quantity, nothing is paid to the hewer for surplus weight!

Again, your Committee further beg to recapitulate that it has been proved by actual and incontrovertible returns that the wages during the past year, and which the coalowners offer to continue for the current year, are sufficient to enable the hewers to earn 3s. 8d. in a working day of eight hours, free and clear of all deductions, &c.; while the fact is, that on the average your workmen (as have been proved by statistical returns which have not been controverted) have only received 11s. per man per week; which, in every respect, differs materially from your Committee's Report, wherein they state that the average wages paid to the men were 3s. 8d. per man per day, or, allowing the collieries to have worked five days per week, would give 18s. 4d. per week to each man. If such has been the case, why are there so many objections to a price which would enable the workmen to earn 3s. per day, and to be found work five days each week, which is actually 8d. per day below what your Committee state that we have received!

Your Committee further state that the rate of wages is unequalled for similar labour in the kingdom, and that the workmen have struck for an advance of 28 per cent. upon their wages. So very far from this being the fact, we beg to state that your workmen are not asking on an average more than 18 per cent.; and when it is considered that the reductions on the two previous years were 23 per cent. on the average, it will be admitted that our demands are not at all unreasonable. When we consider the nature of the new bonds which have been furnished by the pitmen, we are satisfied that your workmen are desirous of affording an opportunity of equality and justice to all parties. Your Committee must be fully aware that your workmen have been accustomed to work so as to produce a greater quantity of coals than any other miners in the kingdom. Or even allowing the statement to pass, suffice it to say that if we receive a greater amount of wages than the men in other districts, the reasons are, in our opinion, the following:—Their coal, in many instances, is very inferior in quality, consequently they cannot command in the market a price equivalent to the coals produced by your workmen, which are of a very superior quality to almost any with which they have to compete. But allowing the argument to hold good, if the men of other countries have subjected themselves to the utmost degree of servile slavery, ought this to be an argument successfully made use of to bring your workmen under a similar state of slavery? However, gentlemen, allow us to state that if in our ignorance we have been taken advantage of, we are not willing to drag the heavy chains of tyrants until we are not in a position to break our bonds asunder. So certain are we that of late our condition has in no small degree been an approximation to the condition of the men in the other coal districts, that several attempts have been made to introduce the abominable system of "TRUCK," and so fully are we convinced that should the monthly agreements be but once introduced the above system must necessarily follow, which would lead to an abandonment of all the social and domestic comforts which we, as Englishmen, wish to enjoy. We, therefore, humbly beg to call your attention to the month's agreements, and request their utter and entire abrogation.

The strike having now continued upwards of thirteen weeks, without any certainty of an early termination, the Committee for the Miners' Association feel called upon to bring the existing state of affairs under the notice of our late employers, the coalowners of Northumberland and Durham.

The Committee feel a sense of deep regret at the conduct of all parties who have had recourse to the introducing of military and police, as having a tendency to irritate the men unnecessarily, when, on many occasions, no disposition whatever has been manifested to break the peace; and where the peace has been broken, it has been solely attributable to the brutal conduct of the men employed now on your collieries, aided in the nefarious work by the police and specials, because we have seen and heard those individuals use the most unmanly means, and give utterance to the most brutal language, for no other purpose (it would appear) than that of provoking your late workmen to acts of violence. We are happy, however, to state, that the Magistrates have paid the strictest attention to all our proceedings, and can, in very many instances, corroborate the fact that no disposition has been manifested, nor even the slightest idea could be entertained, of anything that would call for the interference of the military. Most certainly we admit that the peace has not been universally maintained, although we contend that on our part every possible means have been carried into effect to maintain the peace among the men late in your employ. We are thankful to the Lords Lieutenants and the Magistrates for that continuous attention they have paid to the movements of our Association since the commencement of the strike. We cannot, however, let the present opportunity pass without noticing the low, mean, and dastardly conduct with which we are treated in some instances by underlings. What means the police in disguise? Do you know this to be a fact? We do. Having been in Newcastle now for a considerable time, we have recognized, and do still recognize, many of the parties one day in the regalia of Her Majesty's police, and on the after part of the same day the same parties are to be seen in coloured clothes! We could describe every

Digitized by Google

identical article of clothing and person as well, if it were necessary; and what is still worse, they are often ferocious and quarrelsome when they come in contact with the pitmen. We say, no wonder, then, that the peace has been broken. Hence we ask, Can such a state of things exist much longer?—ought they to exist?—ought the peace of the district to be thus placed in jeopardy? To these considerations we beg your attention; and to prevent such evils we entreat your interference; because, instead of the feelings of hostility which now prevail, we are most anxious that a good understanding should be come to by all parties.

Your Committee next call your attention to the great and effective exertions that have been made by them, for the purpose of bringing the collieries into effective operation. We are conscious that these things are overstated, without reference to the numbers employed, &c., which we promise noticing in a few days. Your Committee would endeavour to persuade you that *our services are uncalled for*, by bringing before you the immense quantities of coal produced daily, without once attempting a single statement concerning the high rate of wages paid for such production of coals, which your agents will readily admit are of very inferior quality compared with the produce of men late in your employ; and we ask if the money already expended in obtaining fresh hands, police, &c., would not have paid the whole advance sought by your men for one six months? On some collieries the coals are actually costing, per hewing price, 9s. per score! price formerly paid to the old hands (same seam) 3s. per score! A proportionate advance is also given to the workmen in every department; and other privileges, ale, &c., which we had not, neither do we ask for. Certainly the enormity of this will now appear at first glance, when it is considered that the men now employed are paid by *day's work* and not by *score as we were*. But the following calculation will, we trust, serve for an illustration of the whole:—Lately, at the Conside colliery, 15 men produced 5 score per day, which, at the previous prices, would give, at 3s. per score, 15s.: 15 men at 3s. per day would give £2 5s.—which makes the above calculation equal to 9s. per score. Neither is this an isolated case, as it can be clearly proved that men now in your employ are actually receiving 3s. 6d. for the same amount of work that your late workmen were not paid more than 1s. 6d. for! and, further, instead of men resorting to the pits, they are brought at an enormous expense from the most distant part of the kingdom; for the truth of which we would refer to a letter published in the *London Morning Chronicle*, signed "John Jobling."

Your Committee's next observations are on the duration of the strike, which they state gives proof sufficient of the former actual comforts enjoyed by the miners, and property and credit possessed by them. (How does this statement square with one given at the commencement of the strike by the same parties, or at least by coal-viewers, that the men could not stand out long, as they had brought them (the men) down to the starvation point?) This, we presume, may be attributed to the strict economy of parties who are more provident than their neighbours, and ought to be looked upon as a credit to every coalowner. Then they apply "the flattering unction to their souls," as to state that the colliers in Northumberland and Durham have never felt the vicissitudes in the rate of their earnings that have been experienced in the manufacturing districts. In this no stronger proof need be given of that due want of regard for the comforts of working-men, by viewers, than that we have felt alike the vicissitudes endured by the coalowners, the want of regular and constant employ, where some collieries have only worked two and three days per week, which has been no uncommon thing. We more especially call your attention to the material reductions made since 1833. However, our position is not at all an enviable one. With all our comforts, which have been procured by our own industry, we are far from being comfortable; and we imagine no race of intelligent men can be very comfortable under such circumstances; and when we view the disposition manifested by some parties, we are of opinion that it is an object much desired by them to reduce us to a state of servile slavery unparalleled in the world's history.

Your Committee next express their deep regret at our position, and indulge a hope that the workmen may be induced to see the folly of their proceedings, and in the hopelessness of success perceive the inevitable ruin in which they are involving themselves and families. Whatever hopes of division may be entertained by the Committee, we are perfectly satisfied with and congratulate the great body of miners on their perfect unanimity of sentiment and opinion. In reference to a continuous term of hiring, subject to a monthly agreement and other essential points in dispute, so tenaciously held to by both parties, the pitmen are fully prepared to abide by the consequences, as they consider their cause founded on truth and justice, nothwithstanding all the Coal Office Committee may say.

Lastly, your Committee state that great forbearance has been exercised in bringing other men into the district. Had this been the case your workmen would have expressed their unfeigned gratitude for such a noble act; but such is *not* the fact. They, in this respect, have been most indefatigable, although probably not so successful as might at first be anticipated. Witness the circumstances of men, "agents of collieries," being sent to Wales (North and South) and Ireland; Fifeshire, Dundee, &c., in Scotland; Staffordshire, Cornwall, Devonshire, Suffolk, &c., in England; and to many other places not here enumerated. Witness, more especially, the means resorted to, to obtain men from a distance, by stating, in some instances, that all your workmen were in employ, and were obtaining good wages, but could not produce the quantity of coals equivalent to the demand! Others have been told that their employ was to be at new works, sinking pits, &c., where the Union was not known. When we contrast the absurdity of similar statements, with those so *mildly* given in your Committee's Report, there appears a want of that consistency which ought to characterize every united body of gentlemen who may seek to obtain any given object. We have not been kindly treated by your agents. We repeat, as has been stated before, all the kindness we court is to have an *interview with our real employers*; so certain are we that such interview would be attended with the best possible results, and would materially assist in bringing the present strike to a speedy issue.

Gentlemen, you must be convinced that what has been repeatedly stated (we beg to refer you to our former Reports) is proof sufficient that all means resorted to (on our part) for obtaining an interview in order to effect an amicable adjustment of all points in dispute, have been treated with silent contempt; or, what is worse, we have been told that no concession would be made to our demands. Seeing, then, that every other means had proved failures, we in the end proposed, and again propose, to submit all matters of dispute to an arbitration of disinterested persons, to be chosen by the masters on one part and by the men on the other. Reference has been made to a vexatious line of proceedings to which the masters have been subjected, which for the future they are determined not to tolerate, without once specifying what these proceedings are. Here it may be stated that the workmen have been considerably annoyed by the attempts of the (so called) masters to withhold their earnings; and when those earnings were requested to be paid, though the application was ever so humble, it was generally treated with contempt and insult; and such treatment frequently led the workmen to adopt other proceedings, which might be considered by the owners vexatious; and however determined they (the masters) may be to put an end to such things, the only effectual method would be to give a fair remuneration to their workmen, and treat them with kindness and consideration.

Once more we appeal to you, can we obtain an interview? Tell us how and by what means. From a consciousness that such an interview would be highly desirable, we entreat you to bestow on this our address your speedy and serious attention.

We are, gentlemen, on behalf of the miners of Northumberland and Durham,

EDWARD RICHARDSON.
WILLIAM RICHARDSON.
JOHN CLARK, District Secretary.

Miners' Association Committee Rooms,
Newcastle-on-Tyne, July 6, 1844.

THE STRIKE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GATESHEAD OBSERVER.

SIR,—The present state of this neighbourhood is so much to be deplored—threatening the most disastrous consequences to all parties, coalowners, shipowners, shopkeepers, and trading capitalists of all sorts, but more especially to the working men, whose only dependence is upon their labour,

Digitized by Google

and (failing that) public and private charity—that no right-thinking man can look upon it otherwise than with alarm and dread forebodings.

I am satisfied—I clearly foresee—that this most injudicious strike will entail upon this district consequences which will never be overcome; and being desirous of aiding, in any way that I can, in reconciling differences, so as to avert still more aggravated consequences, I ask the favour of being allowed to address to you my opinions and predictions, and that you will oblige me by inserting this letter in your next paper.

This strike has now continued for fourteen weeks. During that time it has thrown out of circulation, in this colliery district, the sum of at least FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS, in the working operations of the collieries alone; and, reaching all other channels of industry, it has depreciated the capital trading stock of the district, and injured general trade, to the extent of at least THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS MORE: and I am satisfied that even this estimate is underrated; whilst, at the same time, there is scarcely a marine port in Britain that has not suffered by it. But even this is a minor consideration, compared with the lasting injury inflicted upon the trade; and with the future we now have to do—the past cannot be redeemed.

The counties of Northumberland and Durham are not the only ones in Great Britain in which coals are raised; and although British coal is confessedly the best in quality, yet Great Britain is not the only country by which coals are exported, and from which foreign markets can draw their supplies. My inquiries and knowledge of this matter have led me to this conclusion. When the export-duty was imposed by our Government (of the policy of which tax I will no more than, in passing, say, that I persuade myself the Ministry were not sufficiently aware of the real state and bearings of the case—were not fully aware of the vast amount of capital recently invested in the opening of new mines, and just then gradually coming into operation, on the fair calculation, on the legitimate presumption, that our export-trade would continue steadily increasing—not contemplating any such *fiscal millstone* as an export-duty—than which a more impolitic tax was never imposed):—when, I say, it was first inflicted, the Belgian colliery-owners, and those in the south of France, but the former more especially, immediately seized upon the opportunity, and extended their operations very considerably—competing with the British in their principal markets, which previously they had not been able to reach—and, by such competition, reducing the quantity of the sales of the English, and the prices obtained for the diminished quantity sold. But how stands the matter now? Why, for a full quarter of a year, scarcely any British coal has been obtainable, excepting from Wales and Scotland; which, of themselves, could not, even-handed, compete with the Belgian coal; and the consequence is, that almost all our foreign customers are exclusively drawing their supplies from Belgium. Now, reconcile differences here between the employers and the employed to-morrow, and how will the northern coalowner regain his footing in foreign markets? How will he eject his Belgian rivals—seeing that such rivals, by selling so great an extra quantity, can afford to sell them so much cheaper? Why, I venture to predict that it can only be done (so long as the duty continues) by a sacrifice of at least 10 per cent. in price, and 20 per cent. in quantity; and I need scarcely ask, How will this operate upon this district?

Again:—Our home-markets are at present almost monopolized by the Welsh and Scotch. To drive them back to their previous limits, will be less difficult; but still it cannot be done without sacrifice in a minor and less permanent degree; and this of itself shows the madness and blindness of the present protracted strike.

To the coalowners I would say, in the language of earnest entreaty, reconsider your determinations. Although I am aware that the professed grievances of the pitmen are much exaggerated, yet I believe they *have* grievances of which fairly to complain.

The fines, and the mode of levying them, do, I incline to think, constitute a grievance. I can readily imagine that, in a large colliery-concern, fines, as a check upon individual misconduct, are indispensable, seeing that the idleness or misconduct of one may stop the work of others, and frequently impede and stop the whole; and also for breaking and injuring materials and machinery; and I can also imagine that it may be necessary to have held over the workmen the power to enforce fines for sending up foul coals; yet I am of opinion that it is a power which should be exercised, not as a rule, but with forbearance, and only from proved necessity; such as an evident appearance of wilfulness; and even then some power of appeal or check upon the exercise of such punishment, should be provided; seeing that the superintending party is generally one upon a level with the pitmen; and it is not too much to suppose that partiality will often be shown, and injustice done, in the petty exercise of paltry spleen. And again, is it not sufficient to fine a man for foul coals, without also refusing to pay him for the working of them? unless, indeed, they are too foul to be cleaned and made saleable; especially if what I have understood from pitmen be true, that the light shown by the candle allowed them (the buying of which is not always—nay, I believe, seldom left freely to their choice,) is not always sufficient to enable them to see clearly and readily all the stones amongst the coals. This, as it seems to me, is unreasonable, and should be discontinued: it looks like the exercise of might over weakness.

There is also another point I would press upon the consideration of the coalowners, viz., as regards their determination no longer to bind from year to year, but only from month to month. This determination has, I have understood, been come to, mainly because of the petty summoning and annoyances they have been subjected to, by parties who, I fear, conceive it necessary to manufacture grievances and provoke differences, to show cause for their usefulness to their deluded supporters But look on the other side. You, the coalowners or employers, are necessarily ignorant of the minutiæ in the management of your mines. Is it not placing too much power in the hands of underlings in authority? Can you not conceive that a good, useful, and faithful servant may oftentimes be a sufferer from causes other than inimical to your interests? He may not frequent the shop of my brother's widow; he may be a teetotaller, whilst my sister's husband occupies the neighbouring "Bonny Pit Lad;" and I would have you enter into the feelings of an honest-minded, well-intentioned workman, that such a tenure of holding would be uncertain and discouraging; and knowing that this feeling of mine is very generally shared in, I ask as a concession, in deference to public opinion, that the idea of monthly bindings be abandoned, and the old mode of yearly ones be acted on; believing that, ere long, the eyes of the men will be enlightened, and the dominion of reckless, designing, selfish men, over the deluded and over-credulous workmen, will cease.

I am aware of the great falling-off, both in prices and quantity, gradually increasing in recent years, and of your consequent inability to pay the rates of former years; but understanding that the average reduction of wages last year was not short of 6d. or 7d. per score, I venture to submit that this was a heavy reduction; although I believe that the reduction fell short of the diminished proceeds of each colliery, or at least the majority of collieries. I submit that some little advance upon last year's prices be made, *if possible*, were it only 2d. or 3d. per score, rather than further prejudice the future well-being of the district.

To the pitmen I recommend (the above concessions being made to them) an immediate resumption of work. I question whether trade-strikes ever brought any permanent benefit to labourers, but always temporary, and generally lasting, injury to all. This strike has, from the first, been a wild and an ill-advised one. The pitmen could scarcely have chosen a worse time; and to make a demand of, as it seems, about 30 per cent. advance, under the present paralyzed state of trade, was monstrous—was very madness. If they had commenced by unitedly and firmly petitioning parliament for the removal of the export-duty, (and had they done so, I believe it would have been granted,) they would then have aided their employers in getting more trade, and, consequently, with extra proceeds, extra means from and by which to pay wages. And this accomplished, an application, in that spirit which should exist between the employers and the employed, between master and servant, for advanced wages, would have been attended to. At least the masters would have placed themselves in the wrong by refusing such application, made in reason, and not outrageously great in amount, beyond their power to pay. It is not yet too late to take this course. Were the pitmen to resume work, and at once petition parliament for the abolition of the duty, I

Digitized by Google

would be sadly deceived indeed if good did not come of it for themselves.

The prospect for the coal-miners of this district is anything but encouraging. From the present prostrate state of trade, so general and so widely spread, the consumption of coal decreases, whilst the numbers of the men are rapidly increasing. Now what will this inevitably lead to? Why, nothing, in my opinion, short of this:—That excepting in the event of a healthy revival of general trade, and, consequent thereon, an improved and steadily increasing demand for coals, in some degree proportionate to the increasing numbers of the men, before seven more summers' suns have passed over our heads, the state of our coal district will be fearful.

To coalowners and coal-miners I say, ponder well what you are now doing. Have a care how you needlessly prolong misunderstandings between you, the consequences of which have, like a "National Debt," to be felt hereafter. I, with the greatest confidence, predict, that if such folly be persisted in much longer, especially by the workmen, in less than seven years the pitmen will be working for not more than 2s. per day—irregularly employed—and one half will be altogether unemployed—and the mining capital of the district will be still more unremunerative.

I know not how far you may share in these my views, not having closely read your remarks during this strike. I take no one-sided view of the case, but have expressed my opinions freely and honestly—which with you, I feel, will be no bar to this my request for an insertion in your columns; and if you should have leisure to accompany this with an expression of your views, I would feel still further obliged.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

Newcastle, July 10, 1844. A NEWCASTLE OBSERVER.

THE PITMEN'S STRIKE.

THE following kind, yet firm and resolute Address to the Pitmen lately in the employ of the Marquis of Londonderry, has just been circulated in the Colliery Districts belonging to the Noble Marquis:—

Holdernesse House, July 3, 1844.

I once more, and for the last time, address you. The most deluded and obstinate victims of designing men and crafty Attorneys must now perceive (after twelve weeks' strike) that they cannot become masters, and dictate terms to the coalowners. Already 3,639 men are employed (principally strangers to the districts of Northumberland and Durham) in hewing coals: 766 sensible men have left the union and returned to work. The produce of their labour is 5,177 chaldrons per day. And, with this positive fact before your eyes, and with more strangers coming forward daily, is it possible the old, respectable, well-thinking colliers can be so infatuated as to suppose, by still standing out in rebellion, that they can conquer their employers? Pitmen! I enjoin! I conjure you! to look upon the ruin you are bringing on your wives, your children, your county, and the country. In twelve weeks more the collieries will be peopled by foreigners, and you will have neither shelter, protection, or work. While there is yet time—reflect!! I will give you all, hitherto in my employment, *one more trial.* I have been amongst you—I have reasoned—I have pointed out to you the folly, the misery, the destruction awaiting you, by your stupid and most insane union. I gave you two weeks to consider whether you would return to your work, before I proceeded to eject you from your houses. I returned to Pensher, and I found you dogged, obstinate, and determined—indifferent to my really paternal advice and kind feelings to the old families of the Vane and Tempest pitmen who had worked for successive ages in the mines. I was bound to act up to my word—bound by duty to my property, my family, and station. I superintended then many ejectments—it had no avail. I warned you next I would bring over workmen from my Irish estates, and turn more men out—you heeded me not. I have now brought 40 Irishmen to the pits; and I will give you all *one more week's notice.* And if by the thirteenth of this month a large body of my pitmen do not return to their labour, I will obtain one hundred more men, and proceed to eject that number, who now are illegally and unjustly in possession of my houses; and in the following week another one hundred shall follow. I will be on the spot myself; the civil and military power will be at hand to protect the good men and the strangers; and you may rely upon it the majesty of the law, and the rights of property, will be protected and prevail,

Believe me, I am your sincere friend,

VANE LONDONDERRY.

PUBLIC MEETING IN GATESHEAD.

POSTOFFICE ESPIONAGE.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Duncombe, who had the courage to be the first to denounce to universal reprobation the conduct of Sir James Graham, has presented numerous petitions demanding guarantees against this check put upon the liberty of communication and of thought; and for the honour of England we hope that the petitioners may succeed in their just demand.—*La Presse.*

ON Monday, July 8, the Worshipful the Mayor, WILLIAM KENMIR, Esq., presided over a public meeting in the townhall of Gateshead, which he had convened in compliance with a requisition, bearing upwards of 60 signatures.

Ald. BROCKETT expressed his regret that a necessity should have presented itself for holding the present meeting. He had no doubt the worthy Mayor, in common with the great majority of his fellow-townsmen, was taken by surprise by the recent disclosures in parliament on the subject of the postoffice. Few, if any, had the slightest suspicion that the correspondence of the country was liable to an inquisitorial process in its passage through the postoffice. He had no wish to cast reflections on particular individuals; more especially as committees of inquiry had been appointed, and a searching investigation was in progress. It might be that Sir James Graham had done no more than his predecessors. (Hear, hear.) This might be so—but he hoped not. He hoped that this was the first time so disgraceful a system of espionage had been resorted to in the postoffice of Great Britain. But however this might be, the country should now endeavour to prevent the repetition of the enormity. (Applause.) He was happy that Gateshead had taken the lead in the provinces, and trusted to see the example which his townsmen were setting generally followed. They were assembled to petition parliament, and he had been requested to make the following motion:—

That this meeting feels called upon to petition Parliament on the subject of the late Postoffice exposures, and that the Petition be in the following words:—

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Inhabitants of the Borough of Gateshead, in the County of Durham, in public meeting assembled,

Sheweth,—That your petitioners have heard, with shame and indignation, of letters, addressed from foreign countries to foreigners residing in this island, having been opened in the General Postoffice, and afterwards, to evade detection, closed as before with forged copies of the writers' seals.

That to invade the privacy of domestic correspondence, conducted through the medium of the Postoffice, is a practice which your petitioners strongly disapprove; but their disapprobation is deepened into disgust and abhorrence, when the private letters of illustrious exiles, driven from their homes by continental despots, are, at the desire and for the information of those despots, opened by the hands of an English Minister, in violation of the sacred rights of honour and hospitality.

That to play the eavesdropper, or to pry into private letters, is despicable in individuals, and is not purged of its meanness when practised by a State; and that the enactment which sanctions such practices, and which, although it does not authorize, holds out a temptation to the commission of forgery to conceal them, is a disgrace to the statute-book, and ought to be repealed.

That letters are entrusted to the General Postoffice for the sole purpose of safe conveyance; that no considerations of State policy can justify the treachery of opening them in their transit, and thereby destroying that confidence which is the life-blood of civilized society; nor do your petitioners believe that the safety and stability of their country can be promoted by such a practice; but that, were it otherwise, they would rather that England should perish from the face of the Earth, than owe her existence to fraud and dishonour.

Your petitioners therefore pray your Honourable House to repeal the law which sanctions the opening of private letters in their passage through the Postoffice, and thereby to restore the character of one of the most popular institutions in the State.

And your petitioners, &c.

This was the petition which had been framed for the consideration of the meeting. If it were said that the facts were assumed before they were proved, his reply was, that nothing had been set forth beyond what was admitted. The *Standard,* an organ of the ministry, had made, evidently under official inspiration, the following defence of its patrons:—

"We have but to suppose, *what must be very near the truth,* that an Austrian or Sardinian Minister has complained that Mr. Mazzini is engaged in plots and conspiracies dangerous to the peace of the Austrian or Sardinian dominions, making England the workshop of his machinations, and he calls upon the British Government, as the Government

Digitized by Google

of a friendly country, to thwart those machinations. The British Government could not be insensible to such a complaint and such a DEMAND; but how was it to foil the projects of the conspirator, without knowing in detail what his projects were, and how were they to know this but by making free with his correspondence?" (Hear, hear.)

Such were the facts as stated by the *Standard*. And the Duke of Wellington had gone a little further. His Grace was usually more frank than his colleagues—more so, it was probable, than was at all times agreeable to them. He did not deny that the letters of the exiles had been opened, but he boasted that nothing which they contained had been communicated to foreign potentates. The reason was obvious: there was nothing in them to show. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) The despots of Austria and Sardinia, like despots in every age and country, had been suspicious without a cause. (Hear, hear.) They were the slaves of their own fears, and the treason which they dreaded was found by Sir James Graham to have no existence. He (Mr. Brockett) was glad of it; for he should have been sorry if a foreigner and an exile had got into trouble through a breach of confidence in the English postoffice. (Applause.) The government, he believed, would not have dared to seize and open Mr. Mazzini's letters, if they had been sent to him by a special messenger. And ought they, then, to possess the power of opening them, because they were entrusted to the postoffice? They had no power to intercept a private messenger—(a cry of "And I hope they never will!")—and he trusted the power would be taken from them, if they really possessed it, of opening letters in the postoffice. (Applause.) The worst feature of the transaction—if one feature in so dark a system could be blacker than another—was the re-sealing of the letters after they had been opened, and the patronage thereby given by the government to forgery. (Hear, hear.) Why, even in Austria no such deception was resorted to. There, when a letter was opened, it was forwarded to its destination, with the postmark—"Opened by authority." This was a frankness which did not accord with the spirit that at present presided over the home-office of England. When a letter was to be opened at St. Martin's-le-Grand, a copy of the seal was taken; and the wax was then removed—the letter read—and the forged seal made use of to prevent all suspicion of tampering. There were two modes of forging the seals of letters:—perhaps there were more—but two had come to light. They were both of them, he could assure the meeting, very easy, for he had tried them. (Laughter.) He would exhibit the two processes.—[The impression of a seal in wax was laid on a small anvil, and covered with a piece of smooth lead, about the thickness of a penny-piece. The lead was then struck smartly with a hammer, and converted by the blow into a perfect seal. The experiment was tried repeatedly, and afforded much amusement to the meeting. The *Atlas* describes it as a "palpable absurdity" to say that seals can be so multiplied, but our contemporary should have tried the process before he declared against its practicability.—Mr. B. next produced several casts of seals obtained by means of plaster-of-paris, and impressions taken from them in wax.]—He had occasion, he said, to write to the borough member, Mr. Hutt, by the mail of that day; and he first informed him of what they were about in Gateshead, and then sealed the letter with a forged copy in plaster of his (Mr. Hutt's) own seal. (Laughter.) Sir James Graham, also, he had no doubt, had received many letters, since the recent disclosures, sealed with his own seal, forged *a la Home Office*. (Laughter.) The petition before the meeting prayed that the law which led to such practices might be abolished. That there was no law for the forgery of seals, and the re-sealing of letters, was certain; and he very much doubted that there was, in fact, any law for opening them. Lord Campbell, a high legal authority, had stated in the House of Lords, that the result of the parliamentary investigation, in his opinion, would probably be, the introduction of an act to indemnify Sir James Graham for illegally authorizing letters to be opened. The act protected the Postmaster-General from penalties, if, when he opened letters, he had authority so to do from the Secretary of State; but there was no clause in the act which authorized the Home Secretary to grant any such authority, or protected him from punishment if such authority were given. (Hear, hear.) He now moved the adoption of the petition.

Mr. G. S. DIXON seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.

Mr. W. L. HARLE, in moving the second resolution, said, that when Mr. Duncombe first brought the subject before the House of Commons, he thought the whole narrative of post-office espionage a romantic fiction, imposed upon the honourable member for Finsbury by some bold and unscrupulous rogue. He could not credit that any English minister, at the bidding of a foreign despot, would open the letters of an exile resident in this country, and restore them, apparently, to their original condition, by a species of forgery. But Mr. Duncombe had triumphantly established his charge against the Home Secretary, and forced upon the ministry a parliamentary inquiry—the result of which, he confidently believed, would be, that the whole machinery of the "secret office" of St. Martin's-le-Grand would be swept away, and postoffice-espionage heard of no more. (Applause.) France, through her prime minister, M. Guizot, had repudiated the imputation that the privacy of her postoffice was invaded. The opening of letters, and the re-sealing of them with forged stamps, M. Guizot emphatically declared, was a practice unknown to the French postoffice. How humiliating to England and Englishmen, to be thus crowed-over by the very country with which the word "espionage" had its origin! (Hear, hear.) Mr. Harle, after further remarks, moved:—

That the Petition be entrusted to the Right Honourable Lord Ravensworth, for presentation to the House of Lords, and to William Hutt, Esq., M.P., for presentation to the House of Commons; that copies thereof be sent to the Earl of Radnor and Thomas Slingsby Duncombe, Esq., M.P.; and that the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Duncombe, for the bold and able manner in which he brought the subject before Parliament, and has urged it upon the consideration of the Commons and the country, until at length he has compelled the Government to grant an inquiry into the practices of the "Secret Office" of St. Martin's-le-Grand. (Applause.)

Mr. JOHN ROBSON seconded the motion. Mr. Harle, he said, had spoken of one "old woman" who was implicated in the practices of the "secret office." He was surprised to learn, after the disclosures which had been made, that the officials detected in peeping into letters, and gratifying their curiosity, were not a set of "old women" altogether. (Laughter.) He hoped that many public meetings, like that of Gateshead, would be held throughout the country, to petition for the repeal of the law which countenanced the dark doings of the "secret office," and that even Sir James Graham would be convinced of the truth of the old adage, "Honesty is the best policy." (Applause.)

The MAYOR put the motion to the meeting, and it was unanimously adopted.

Mr. REVELY then moved, and Mr. JOSHUA WATSON, jun., seconded the following motion, viz.:—

That the Worshipful the Mayor be requested to sign the petition on behalf of the meeting; and that the most cordial thanks be given to him for complying with the wishes of the requisitionists, and for his services in the chair. (Applause.)

The TOWN CLERK having put the motion, it was carried by acclamation.

The MAYOR returned thanks, and said he should have much pleasure in signing the petition. (Applause.) His Worship then declared the business of the meeting at an end; but many of the Gatesiders present remained in the hall, to try their hands at postoffice forgery!

THE ARRIVING TRAIN.

(From *Ainsworth's Magazine*, July, 1844.)

BEHOLD, smoke-panoplied, the wondrous car!
  Strong and impetuous, but obedient still,
Behold, it comes, loud panting, from afar,
  As if it lived, and of its own fierce will
  Ran a free race with wild winds blowing shrill.
Fire-bowell'd, iron-ribb'd, of giant length,
Snakelike it comes, exulting in its strength,
  The pride of Art, the paragon of Skill!
Triumph of Mind, what hand thy bound shall mark?
  Lo! through the curtain of the coming time,
Seen looming palpably mid cloud and dark,
  Yet other triumphs, more than this sublime,
Rise, numerous, on the far-seeing ken
Of those who watch, and hope the good of men.

CHARLES MACKAY.

Digitized by Google

THE PITMEN'S STRIKE.

(From the *Gateshead Observer*, July 20, 1844.)

THE Marquis of Londonderry has written a third letter, which will be found in our first page. His lordship, very properly, refuses to treat with any other than his workpeople. This week, upwards of 70 Irishmen arrived at the collieries of the noble lord.

The coalowners are described by the unionists as tyrants and monsters, and Lord Londonderry is depicted by Mr. Roberts and his myrmidons as the most brutal of the whole. Strange that the pitmen should, at the eleventh hour, beseech his lordship to become a mediator on their behalf! What more convincing proof can be given that he has shown himself an indulgent master and a benevolent friend to his workmen—and that they know it? Yet such is the man whom the *Northern Star* assails with the most odious and revolting abuse, and invokes heaven's judgment on his head for his oppression of his pitmen!—*Durham Chronicle.*

The coal-trade return of the week ending July 13, showing the number of hewers then at work, the number of men that had left the union, and the amount of coal raised per day, in the collieries of the Tyne, Wear, and Tees, is as follows:—

	Hewers.	Seceders.	Chaldrons per day.
Tyne	1944	331	2744
Wear	1383	300	1886
Tees	1007	372	1354
Total	4334	1073	5984
Return to July 6	3975	889	5541
Increase on the week	359	184	443

Nearly 200 Welsh pitmen arrived in Newcastle by railway on Tuesday evening, and on the following morning proceeded to the collieries at Seghill and Hastings' Hartley.

Wingate Grange colliery has resumed work, with about 60 men, several of whom are seceders from the union.

The owners of Trimdon colliery have ejected several more pitmen from their houses.—Ejectments have been very general throughout the district, within the past week.

Mr. Beesley, at Thornley, (says the *Durham Chronicle*,) told a public meeting of pitmen, that "if the tradesmen were to credit them with goods until they had no more—if they were to give them all they possessed, and they (the pitmen) should never pay them—they would only be getting their own; for although the tradesmen had made their property by selling across the counter, the pitmen had made it first, by their hard and ill-paid labour, and therefore it was theirs." Such is the shallow and dishonest sophistry addressed to the pitmen by their favourite advisers.

Mr. Roberts, the "Pitmen's Attorney General," says, in a trashy letter, addressed to his clients, on the subject of the long-deferred ejectments by the coalowners:—"This is, without exception, the most damnable resolve ever adopted by beings professing Christianity. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, it is difficult to conceive the colour of the man who was bold enough to originate the accursed proposition. However, it has been made, it has been decided upon: the shelter of God's Heaven is all that you are to have: even the workhouse is to be closed against you." — [According, therefore, to Mr. Roberts, the pitmen should live for ever in the houses of other men, and make no return in labour for the privilege; and the ratepayers should maintain the unionists in a strike for wages! He next rants and raves as follows]:—"And, merciful Heaven! magistrates and clergymen have been requested to give their sanction and protection to the holy work; and some of them—blessings on their babes, and wives, and mothers—have promised 'to be present and superintend'—just to see—O! the lovely ones!—'that there is no breach of the peace.' Well, well! the Almighty's thunder is not all dead! It *may* happen that they who so quietly doom the wife, and mother, and child, to the moor's wind—'Ha, ha, ha, ha! they're all a starving'—it may happen—that they may sometime want hearth and shelter for themselves. * * And these men—and they'll be at church or chapel on Sunday—will laugh and get drunk while they send twenty thousand men, women, and children to the mercies of Heaven's broad canopy; and every hovel, and shed, and roof will first be boarded up—nailed and screwed—and every shopkeeper will be threatened with ruin who offers bread, or water, or shelter! And now, what is your duty under all this? It is to tell you your duty that I write to you. You have trusted me, as perhaps you never trusted man before. Have I ever deceived you? Trust me now! Your whole hope of success depends upon trusting me now! Unless you give me now your confidence, all your struggle of the last thirteen weeks will but bring you to a state of even deeper degradation than when I first came among you. Read then—trouble not yourselves at the muddy sneer that may splutter at the strain in which I address you. I am your friend — trusted by you—trusting in you: it is my duty to address you. Read, then; and as each man reads or listens, let him believe—*and so believing, act*—as if all labour's rights and hopes and life were bound up in his own single arm, and depended on his own individual conduct, whether they should live and grow ripe in the vigour of freedom, or die in the unlamented rottenness of slavery!" [He tells them that the coalowners hope to coerce them into submission or outrage. In the latter case, "sabre, and musket, and ball," will be used against them. He advises them, therefore, to be strictly peaceable.] "Whatever is done—however horrible and galling the case may be—even if the West Moor ruffianism of dragging the wife eighty yards along the waggon-way till she fainted—even if this should be repeated—while Justice stands whistling by—still you must restrain yourselves. *Peace* is your protection—your hope—your only hope—Peace is drive your oppressors to madness. Don't, however, run away. Stay in your houses—your families around you. Lock your doors as against an ordinary housebreaker: sit down—go to bed—and firmly and quietly state your disinclination to leave the spot; and you may say (but only in joke mind) that you have read in a book that 'an Englishman's house was his castle.' Beyond this, offer no resistance whatever. Let them *carry* you out—go to no justice for protection or a warrant—avoid the farce—it will not be a time for *that* folly." [But although they keep the peace, they must also stand firm to the "strike;" for it would be "better to *die* than *yield* to the 'monthly' mass of trickery offered to them by the coalowners." He concludes]:—"I have written rather lengthily—but I could not help it. I *know* the intentions of the coalowners—their groanings reach me. They believe that the 'shooting a hundred, and the transporting a couple,' would 'send you to work again,' and 'break up your UNION.' Thus they mutter when sober—shout when drunk; and their hope is strong—all is prepared.

The cannons are pointed and ready to roar.

But you will disappoint them—will you not? You will not let their treachery triumph over your weakness. All now depends on yourselves. Fifteen weeks you have struggled: a few weeks, or perhaps days, more, of courageous forbearance, may obtain all that you require—while one single act of folly may destroy every hope for ever. Bear, then, with every outrage without a murmur—let no hard words escape your lips—restrain your anger: vengeance will overtake your oppressors without your aid—when all earth's wealth will not screen them from God's wrath. All now depends upon yourselves. *Peace* for the next fortnight—PEACE, *forbearance*, and COURAGE—and the cause of the Durham and Northumberland colliers is won!" [Ten days of the "fortnight" have passed away:—we shall soon see, therefore, whether Mr. Roberts be a true or a false prophet.]

"However much (says a writer in the *Times*) I may and do condemn the unreasonable demands of the 'miners of the union,' I must say that they display a noble, though a blinded, and especially a misguided spirit. From the frequent intercourse which I have occasion to have with them, it appears evident to me that few of these men understand what their late masters offer, and what they themselves really want. If they did so, there is little doubt but that labour would be generally resumed by them immediately; for the wages offered are most liberal compared to what the other labouring classes of England are at present receiving. If they could only see your own correspondent's open and candid letters on the state of the labourers of Norfolk and Suffolk, their eyes would be opened to the comparative liberality of their late employers. There is not a man amongst them who, by labouring in the mines, cannot in eight hours earn more than double what the best Norfolk hedger, ditcher, or ploughman can do in twelve or fourteen hours' incessant toil; and I should wish to know which is the harder or more 'slavish labour' of the two. I should say the latter, for I have seen them both. But all this is hid from their eyes. When offers are made them by their late employers, they, instead of judging for themselves, refer all to their delegates or leaders,

Digitized by Google

who, in too many instances, are designing and unprincipled men.

"Ere long the stern oppression of want of employment, when strangers have filled their places, and want of bread, will tell them what their leaders really are; and that if they had listened to the voice of reason, and judged for themselves, instead of employing others, whose trade it is to feast upon the simplicity, and in the end ruin, of their fellows, they would have been happier and wiser.

"As I have said that neither party will yield, your readers may naturally inquire, Have no concessions been made by either party? In some degree they have. But if a manager of a colliery calls his men together, and makes them an offer, it matters not however liberal it may be, the men refer it to their paid attorney and delegates; and though this offer meets their views, it will not be accepted, unless all the collieries in Durham and Northumberland receive the same, or something equivalent to it!

"As natural to suppose, the coalowners will not be dictated to by the paid servants, or rather paid leaders, of those men whom they offer to hire.

"The terms offered by the coalowners have already been laid before your readers. They can judge for themselves. In my opinion they are liberal; and I am supported in this opinion by the fact that from all parts of the country there are good able men coming forward to accept them, and that if all the pitmen were turned from the colliery houses, they would soon be filled by others. This system of ejectment, which, after many a struggle with their feelings, the coalowners have at last been obliged to resort to, may bring them to a sense of their waywardness. If it does not, there is little doubt but ere long an entire new class of men will be labouring in the mines of Durham and Northumberland; and what will become of the former class it is hard to tell."

THE STRIKE.

COPY of a LETTER addressed to the MARQUIS OF LONDONDERRY on behalf of the MINERS' UNION, and of his LORDSHIP'S ANSWER.

TO THE MOST NOBLE THE MARQUIS OF LONDONDERRY.

MY LORD,—I am requested by the Miners of Northumberland and Durham, and on their behalf, to forward to you the inclosed address to the "Coalowners of Northumberland and Durham." I am also requested to entreat your Lordship to exert your powerful influence to cause a meeting of the *bona fide* coalowners and their late workmen, with a view to the settlement of the present unhappy differences; for the pitmen are convinced that if they could meet their real masters an agreement would follow.

I am, my Lord, your Lordship's obedient Servant,
EDWARD RICHARDSON.

Committee Rooms, Newcastle, July 10, 1844.

MR. EDWARD RICHARDSON.—SIR,—I have received your note, and an address enclosed from the Special Committee of the Coal Miners.

I beg to reply that I have nothing whatever to say to such Committee.

I will communicate and treat with my own colliers and pitmen, and none other. To them I will appeal, if they have ever dragged the heavy chain of tyrants or been subject to a state of servile slavery? if they ever heard in my collieries of the truck system? or if they have not admitted to me (by a deputation) that they had nothing whatever to complain of from me or my viewers? but that they were compelled, by the power and force of the Union, to fight the battle of others, who they stated were not well used like them?

When my men return to their work, they will find me, as I have ever (I hope) been, an indulgent and kind master.

They know they are sure of the year's work in my colliery, if they fairly conduct themselves. It is as much my interest as theirs. I kept on last year, at great loss to myself, a number of unbound men during the whole year, for whom I had no employment. So much for tyranny!

Every statement in the address (as far as my collieries are concerned) can be met and refuted; and if my men continue to be deluded by the so-called Special Committee of Miners, by the infatuated Union (productive of their misery and ruin), and by the evil counsels of interested attorneys and demagogue leaders, they may be assured I will people my collieries from other quarters, and that the law of property and fair and just rights will be maintained and defended by the military and civil power. I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,
VANE LONDONDERRY.

Holdernesse House, July 12, 1844.

REGISTRATION OF MINING RECORDS.—A meeting was held in Newcastle (July 16th) of gentlemen favourable to the establishment of a national system of preserving mining records. The meeting was held in the Antiquarian Society's Library, shortly after 2 o'clock, when there were present the Rev. John Collinson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. N. Wood, Mr. Laws, Mr. W. Bainbridge, Mr. W. Hutton, Mr. Fryer, Mr. T. Sopwith, &c. — Mr. Sopwith was requested to take the chair. Mr. Bainbridge then stated that it was understood that a committee would have been formed with a view of carrying the subject forward, but that had not yet been done. In the meantime, however, the parties who advocated the establishment of the system had been actively employed in their endeavours to further it, and a good deal of correspondence had been entered into with persons who were likely to take a deep interest in the subject. Communications had also been made to the government with regard to it, and it was considered as very likely that the government would be favourable to the measure. He had with him the draft of a bill which he had prepared with great care, and the provisions of which had been very generally approved of by those who had seen them; and the most material thing for the meeting to-day was, to consider whether they were so far advanced as to get the bill brought into parliament this session—get it read a first time—and so get it printed for distribution amongst the many gentlemen who would be interested in it, in all parts of the country, or whether the matter should stand over altogether until the next session. He though that what he had first suggested would be the most advisable, and then copies of the bill could be sent all over the mining districts, and be properly considered during the recess by all who took an interest in it.—The learned gentleman produced the draft of the intended bill. Its principle was that of compulsory registration of all mining operations whatsoever, in order that accidents may be avoided, and life and property placed on a surer basis than that on which they rest at present; and the principal provisions were—that the kingdom be divided into four districts; that registrars be appointed with power to search for and compel the registration of mining records in their districts; that penalties (some of them severe ones) be the consequence of refusal, fraud, or misrepresentation, either on the part of registrars, or owners of colliery property; and that registrars be at liberty to receive voluntary contributions, as to mining operations &c. [This clause, Mr. B. remarked, was one calculated to make the act of the greatest value to the practical management of the mines.] The act not to extend to quarries and open works.—Some questions having been asked as to the cost, Mr. Bainbridge said it was considered a measure of such great national importance that the cost, it was expected, would come out of the Consolidated Fund. As to the amount there was some difference of opinion. He had calculated that, in round numbers, the cost, for the whole kingdom, would be about £6,000, whilst another gentleman had fixed it at about £3,800 or £4,000. All this, however, was matter for subsequent consideration; and the business now was, what step the meeting would take with regard to the draft of the bill which he had submitted.—The Chairman remarked that the bill appeared to be good; but it would have to be thoroughly discussed, and measures to promote such discussion could not be too speedily adopted. He then mentioned that in Somersetshire mining property was subdivided to a very great extent; and that in Shrewsbury and Shropshire, there were no plans kept; and when it was considered how much this bill would interest all these and many other parties, copies of it could not be too soon in their hands, in order to such parties being made aware of the provisions it contained.—This being the general impression at the meeting, it was unanimously resolved:—"That an association, to be called the North of England Association for procuring a national system of registering records of mining operations, be immediately formed; and that the draft of the bill now submitted by Mr. Bainbridge be forwarded to the members for Newcastle, with the view, if possible, of its being read a first time, and printed for circulation."

Digitized by Google

BOROUGHHOLDERS OF GATESHEAD.

DESTRUCTION OF THE WALLS ON THE WINDMILL-HILLS.

THE Boroughholders and Freemen of Gateshead having addressed a memorial to the Right Honourable Sir James Graham, Bart., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department, (of which a copy is given below,) the Home Secretary transmitted it to the Mayor of Gateshead, William Kenmir, Esq., with a request that a report might be made thereon to the Home Office.

THE BOROUGHHOLDERS' MEMORIAL.

Gateshead, July 8, 1844.

SIR,—In compliance with a resolution of the last half-yearly meeting of the Boroughholders and Freemen of Gateshead, held on the 13th day of June last, we beg most respectfully to call your attention to a gross outrage committed on their property, in which a Mr. William Henry Brockett, holding the commission of Her Majesty's peace within that borough, and a Mr. Robert Davis, the late Mayor, and therefore for this year a Magistrate of the borough, together with the Inspector of Police and some of the police-constables, were implicated; and to request your perusal of the following statement relative to the matter.

Before entering into the case, we may mention that Gateshead is one of the boroughs created by the Municipal Reform Act, and that the Boroughholders and Freemen are a body entirely distinct from the Council of the borough, and possess certain property which belongs to them as individuals, and is held by them as tenants in common. This property has been attempted to be taken from them by the Council, and applied to the purposes of the above Act; but the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench, some years ago, set aside this attempt, and the title of the present proprietors has from time to time been recognized by the Legislature, in Acts of Parliament relating to it. We, therefore, pass over any remedial measures in a court of justice for the damage sustained on this occasion, and merely bring it before you in the capacity of Secretary of State for the Home Department—and, as such, in some measure answerable for the peace of the country, and the comptroller of its Magistrates.

There is within the borough of Gateshead, and immediately to the west of what may be considered the main streets of the town, a piece of vacant ground, containing about ten acres, known as the Windmill Hills, belonging to the Boroughholders and Freemen of Gateshead—which, for many years, has been in an almost unproductive state. Through this piece of ground an ancient footpath extended from a street called the Half Moon-lane to the westward, where are situate many of the principal suburban residences of the inhabitants; and in consequence of its affording a shorter and easier ascent than the ordinary turnpike road, it is and has been much used by the public. There are also two other short or branch footpaths leading from the main one to the turnpike-road, which from long usage have become public. These footpaths have never been repaired by the parish or public, being dependent upon the casual good offices of any one, and were, in fact, often in a very deplorable state. The main turnpike road from Gateshead to Hexham, Wolsingham, and the west portion of the county of Durham generally, is by the said Half Moon-lane; and as the curved portion shown in the plan hereunto annexed is not only very narrow, but forms a very steep ascent, accidents have arisen in consequence. In 1838, the Boroughholders were anxious to improve this property, and to make a good carriage-road or street and footpaths, and consequently entered into negotiations with Cuthbert Ellison, Esq., the lessee of the manor under the Bishop of Durham, and owner of the piece of land intervening between the Half Moon-lane and their own property, to carry this desirable alteration into effect—which negotiations terminated favourably.

At a half-yearly meeting of the Boroughholders and Freemen, held in January, 1840, Mr. Brockett, himself a Boroughholder, gave notice that he would, at the next meeting, move certain resolutions relative to the improvement of this property, in which he states that to the public the opening of a new and long-desired line of road westward from the Half Moon-lane would be a boon of the most valuable kind. In 1842, a Committee of the above body was appointed to carry out this improvement. Plans were prepared and orders given to level the inequalities and build the walls, which are coloured yellow on the plan, at a voluntary expense to the Boroughholders and Freemen of nearly £400. In effecting this, it became necessary to divert the above footpaths a few yards; but so obvious was the improvement, both in the general inclination of the ground and the better construction of the footpaths, that no steps were taken at the time to have the powers of the Act of Parliament relative to this property, and the diversion or stopping up of any of these footpaths, carried into effect—the Boroughholders and Freemen never imagining that any one would oppose so great a public benefit. The matter was however taken up by one of the Council of the borough—it is generally believed on personal grounds—and a Committee appointed on the 3d of April last, to inquire into and make a report upon the subject—which was presented to the Council at a meeting held on the 8th of May, and a copy whereof, and the resolutions of which meeting, is hereunto annexed. In compliance with the resolution of the Council, the Town Clerk wrote and forwarded to Mr. Swinburne, the Secretary of the Boroughholders and Freemen, a letter dated the 15th of May last—a copy whereof, marked A., is hereunto also annexed—requiring the obstructions and encroachments (meaning thereby the walls erected to enclose the new roads and footpaths) to be forthwith removed. A meeting of the Boroughholders and Freemen was called, to take the communication into consideration; and the Secretary of that body was directed to write, and did accordingly write, and send to the Town Clerk of Gateshead, the letter dated the 21st of May, a copy whereof, marked B., is hereunto also annexed, suggesting a conference at which the matter might be amicably arranged. To this reasonable proposition the Committee of the Town Council would not consent; and the Town Clerk, in a letter of the 24th of May, a copy whereof, marked C., is hereunto also annexed, having stated this their determination, a meeting of the Committee of the Boroughholders and Freemen was forthwith called, at which it was determined to open out the old footpaths, rather than contend the point, under existing circumstances. In pursuance of this resolution, they summoned their builder to meet them on the spot, on the evening of Wednesday, the 29th of May; and accordingly they did mark out and give directions to him to pull down those portions of the lately-built walls which had been erected across the old footpaths. In the afternoon of that day, however, a printed placard, headed by the Royal Arms, and entitled a "Proclamation," and purporting to be issued by Her Majesty in Council, was posted about the townhall (on the door of which *bona fide* proclamations of Her Majesty are usually posted), and liberally distributed throughout the town. This paper (a copy whereof is hereunto annexed) was printed at the press of the *Gateshead Observer* office (of which newspaper Mr. Brockett is one of the two proprietors, and takes a very active part in its management), and got up in such a manner as readily to impose upon the lower classes; especially in times when so many persons are unemployed, owing to the "strike" of the colliers. That it had this effect, there is no doubt—as many ignorant persons, who were engaged in the outrage, subsequently stated that they were ordered to do so by the Queen. In pursuance of this handbill, early on the following morning (Thursday, the 30th of May), a large number of pitmen and other idle persons assembled in front of the townhall, the residence of the Inspector of Police; and shortly after, the Magistrates, Mr. Brockett and Mr. Davis, with some members of the Town Council, the Town Clerk, Inspector of Police, and three or four policemen, issued from the townhall, accompanied by two or three workmen, and bearing in procession long poles, with flags at their tops. These were stated to be for the alleged purpose of using as marks to set out the footpaths; although this was unnecessary, as the ground, denuded of its grass, sufficiently pointed out the place of the old roads, but were doubtless used for the purpose of giving effect to the procession on its way to the Windmill Hills. As was to be anticipated, when the leaders moved on, the multitude rapidly increased; and by the time it had gone 200 yards, the street was densely filled by at least four or five hundred persons. On reaching the places where the obstructions had been made, the Magistrates and members of the Committee gave directions to pull down the walls; and when Mr. Brockett was charged with ordering this proceeding to be adopted where no footpath had ever been, he answered that "he had travelled all over the place, and that the walls should be all down." As soon as they had given these orders,

Digitized by Google

the Magistrates and Committee went to the house of one of the Town Councillors (a Mr. Potts, who was assisting at the proceeding), situate in the immediate vicinity of the spot (marked A. on the plan), and commanding from the window a view of nearly the whole of the scene of outrage, just then commencing, without taking any steps or using any means to disperse the multitude there collected, who were then ripe for any mischief. It soon became obvious that the mere removal of the obstructions of the footpaths was not the sole object in view; for under the apparent direction of individuals — amongst whom the printer of the above handbill was very actively engaged—the prostration of the whole was commenced; and a large body of idle and disorderly characters, amounting to at least 100 men, under the eye of the Inspector of Police and his constables, were employed, for the space of two hours or thereabouts, in the entire demolition of the walls, and the gates, &c., connected therewith. The tumultuous mob were evidently prepared to commit any outrage, for they actually seized upon the iron palisades in front of one of the houses adjoining part of the walls, with the intention of pulling them down, but were restrained by the printer before mentioned, on an appeal made to him by the parties doing the mischief as to whether they were to do so or not. When, however, in their process of destruction, they reached the boundary of Mr. Ellison's property, the police deemed it right to interfere; and their success in at once preventing any further demolition, although the wall was a mere continuation of that already thrown down, clearly demonstrated that their instructions had been to allow the mob to take its own will, until it reached Mr. Ellison's property, who was not likely to allow such a proceeding to be passed over. During the whole of this time, the Magistrates remained in Mr. Potts's house—if not actual spectators, at least fully cognizant of the perpetration of this great outrage, and certainly within hearing of the shouts of the mob, as they proceeded in their unlawful career. By the reported proceedings of the next meeting of the Town Council, a copy whereof is hereunto annexed, it will sufficiently appear that those assertions were tacitly admitted by the several parties then present. At the conclusion of this disgraceful proceeding, acting under the immediate inspection of the police-officers, and with the apparent sanction of the above Magistrates, the mob was regaled with three-half-barrels of ale, which were paid for by the Inspector of Police, and most unexpectedly and fortunately dispersed without further mischief; though so likely was a riot to take place, that the Mayor of the borough (himself a Boroughholder, and therefore unwilling to interfere till the last moment,) remained in his house near the place, fully expecting it, and prepared to act accordingly. The town was in a state of great excitement, and many of the peaceable inhabitants obliged to remain in their houses, fearing to venture out; whilst others, totally unconnected with either the Town Council or the Boroughholders and Freemen, who were obliged by their avocations to pass that way during the work of demolition, declared that they had never witnessed such disgraceful proceedings; and had not the Boroughholders and Freemen prudently determined beforehand not to resist the demolition of their property, there is little doubt but that a general riot and probably bloodshed would have taken place.

Having thus, as briefly as possible, brought this matter before you, we request and trust that you will cause some inquiry to be instituted into it, and (especially as further outrage in this borough has since taken place) exercise the power vested in you, as Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department, in reproving, or removing from the commission of the peace, the person or persons who, in the critical situation of this district at the time, ought rather to have taken extreme care to avoid collecting a mob together under any circumstances, than actually to countenance these lawless proceedings, which might have produced most alarming and disastrous consequences. We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

JOHN LISTER.
NICHOLAS ANDREWS.
GEORGE WATSON.
THOMAS GLAHOLM.
JOHN LISTER, jun.
FORSTER WALKER.
JAMES HONEYMAN.
GEORGE WAILES.

The Right Hon. Sir James Graham, Bart., &c., &c., &c.

The Mayor and other Magistrates, at a special meeting, held on Thursday, July 18, placed the memorial in the hands of Mr. Brockett and Mr. Davis, and requested them to reply at their earliest convenience; and at a further meeting, held on Tuesday, July 23, (present, the Mayor, and John Barras, James Pollock, George Hawks, William Hymers, W. H. Brockett, and R. Davis, Esq.,) replies were read as follows:—

THE REPLY OF MR. BROCKETT.

King James's-street (Gateshead), July 20, 1844.

DEAR SIR,—I cheerfully comply with the request of yourself and the other Magistrates assembled at the police-office on Thursday last, that I should reply to certain statements which have been made, in a letter dated the 8th inst., to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by Messrs. John Lister, Nicholas Andrews, George Watson, Thomas Glaholm, John Lister, jun., Forster Walker, James Honeyman, and George Wailes, respecting the recent pulling-down of the walls on the Windmill Hills.

My reply would have been a brief one, had Mr. Lister and his co-complainants confined themselves to strictures on my conduct as a Magistrate; but as they have considered it necessary to the success of their impeachment of me, to intrude upon the Secretary of State a garbled version of various matters in which I have acted, either as a Town-Councillor or a Boroughholder, I deem it due, not less to Sir James Graham than to myself, that he should be put in possession of the whole case.

The Committee of the Boroughholders state, in the first instance, that "Gateshead is one of the boroughs created by the Municipal Reform Act." Now this is notoriously untrue. The Municipal Reform Act created no boroughs. It was an Act "to provide for the regulation" of certain existing "bodies corporate," whose titles were exemplified in the several schedules of the Act. In "Schedule A." of the Act, Gateshead was placed; and the "style of the corporate body" in connection with it is described therein as the "Boroughholders and Freemen of the Borough of Gateshead."

By the advice of the present Lord Campbell (then Attorney General), the first election of Town-Councillors for Gateshead was conducted by the senior officer of the Boroughholders and Freemen, and the necessary formalities of the election were prepared by a gentleman who then filled the office of Clerk to the Boroughholders and Freemen.

One of the first steps taken by the Town Council, so elected, was to demand the delivery of the corporate books, papers, and funds from the Boroughholders, and to notify to the tenants of the Borough Property to pay their rents in future to the Borough Treasurer.

The officers of the Boroughholders having refused to comply with this demand, they were summoned before the Magistrates of the borough, under the 60th section of the Municipal Reform Act; but the Magistrates refused to adjudicate, on the ground that it was a case of disputed title.

The Town-Council then instructed the Town Clerk to apply for a mandamus against the Justices of the borough, to compel them to adjudicate; but the Judges refused the application, on the ground that the Town-Council might apply to the County Magistrates.

No application, however, was made to the County Magistrates; but a mandamus was applied for against the officers of the Boroughholders, to compel them to deliver up the corporate papers and monies to the Town-Council. This application was also refused by the Queen's Bench, on the ground that although a *prima facie* case had been made out, other remedies than by mandamus were open to the Council. The Court, moreover, refused the Boroughholders their costs.

Since that time (April 22, 1837), no legal proceedings have been resorted to by the Town Council on the Borough Property Question, the motions made in that body for the purpose having been rejected by majorities consisting principally of Boroughholders.

The statement, then, to Sir James Graham, that "this property (the Windmill Hills) has been attempted to be taken from the Boroughholders by the Council," but that "the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench, some years ago, set aside this attempt," is devoid of foundation in truth. All that the Council claimed was the custody of the books, papers, and funds, by which, of course, the control of the property would

Digitized by Google

have been acquired; and upon that claim no decision, either of the Court of Queen's Bench or of any other legal tribunal, has yet been pronounced.

Had the Town-Council obtained the control of the property, the right would still have been open to the Boroughholders of showing, if they could do so, that they were entitled to receive its proceeds from the Council, under the second clause of the Act.

As a Town-Councillor, I have invariably asserted the right of the Town Council to the management of the Borough Property, for the benefit of the public. I have ever denied, and I do still deny, the right of the Boroughholders (and I am a Boroughholder myself) to any pecuniary benefit from the property. I have contended, all along, that the property was public property; and that the occasional divisions of its rents, by the Boroughholders among themselves, which took place between the year 1821 and the passing of the Municipal Reform Act (but which had never taken place before), were flagrant breaches of trust on the part of the ancient body corporate.

Frustrated, however, by the votes of Boroughholders in the Town-Council, in all my attempts to obtain for the Council the management of the property for the benefit of the public, I have endeavoured, on more than one occasion, in my capacity of a Boroughholder, to bring the matters at issue between the Town-Council and the Boroughholders to an amicable termination.

In January, 1840, as the Committee of the Boroughholders have informed Sir James Graham, I gave notice to the Boroughholders that I would move, at their next meeting, certain resolutions relative to the improvement of the Borough Property, and in one of which resolutions I stated that "to the public the opening of a new and long-desired line of road (over the Windmill Hills) would be a boon of the most valuable kind." True, I did so. But the Committee of the Boroughholders have suppressed much more than they have revealed in connection with my resolutions. They have not stated that the new road which I then advocated was only a part of a plan for the settlement of differences between the Council and the Boroughholders—that I suggested that the property should be made productive by a disposal of it in building sites, subject to a ground rent, to be applied to "the general benefit of the people of Gateshead;" and they have not stated that I proposed that all this should be done, not by the mere vote and pleasure of the Boroughholders, but "by obtaining legal authority (by legislative enactment or otherwise)" for the purpose.

Neither have the Committee of the Boroughholders stated to Sir James Graham, as they ought in common fairness to have done, that my resolutions were rejected by the Boroughholders, but that a Committee of that body, to whom the consideration of my resolutions was referred, (and of whom Mr. James Honeyman, one of the parties who have complained to Sir James Graham, was one,) recommended that, in order to prevent further litigation, a sum not exceeding £600 should be placed at the disposal of the governors of one of the public charities of the borough, so soon as a trust-deed should be executed by all the Boroughholders and Freemen—a sacrifice which few possessors of property would, probably, have deemed it necessary to make, had a decision in favour of their title been pronounced by the Court of Queen's Bench.

The Committee of the Boroughholders have also neglected to inform Sir James Graham, that so recently as the 26th of December last, a conference took place between a Committee appointed by the Town-Council and a Committee (of whom Mr. John Lister, one of the parties complaining to Sir James Graham, was a member,) appointed by the Boroughholders, for the purpose of endeavouring to effect "an amicable arrangement of the questions" relative to the Borough Property. Mr. John Lister, therefore, who was present, was fully qualified, had he chosen to do so, to inform the Secretary of State of what took place at the conference. The minutes of the Town-Council, which are accessible to any burgess, enable me to supply this significant omission of the Boroughholders' Committee. The Town-Council Committee, it appears, proposed at the conference "that the whole question should be submitted to the arbitration of some gentleman of station and character, not being a practising lawyer:—the submission to be by rule of court, or by such other means as would most effectually bind all the parties, and at the least expense." The Boroughholders' Committee thought, however, that according to the terms of their appointment, they could not agree to this proposal; but they were disposed, they said, to "make some concession, in order to have the question set at rest; and although they did not admit the claim made by the Council to the Borough Property, they were willing to recommend to the Boroughholders and Freemen to pay the sum of £600 as a compromise, on the Boroughholders and Freemen being sufficiently secured from the future interference of the Town Council."

Such were the proceedings at this conference, as they were reported to the Town-Council on the 7th of February, 1844; and as no resolution, save a formal one for entering the report on the minutes, was passed by the Town-Council, I immediately proposed a series of resolutions for the prevention of further waste of the property—one of my proposals being that the Town Council should receive the rents of the property, and fund or otherwise securely invest them, until the matter should be either judicially or amicably adjusted. My resolutions were negatived, but only by a casting vote; and it is worthy of remark, that of the *nine* members of the Town-Council who voted, on this occasion, against my resolutions, *eight* were Boroughholders.

It is strange, too, that the Committee of the Boroughholders, or at least three of them, (viz., George Watson, Thomas Glaholm, and Forster Walker,) should have neglected to put Sir James Graham in possession of certain facts relative to their own proceedings, during the passing of the Municipal Reform Act through the House of Lords. Had a spirit of candour and impartiality actuated these gentlemen, they would have informed the Secretary of State, that whilst the Municipal Reform Act was before the House of Lords, (to wit, on the 11th of August, 1835,) they—the aforesaid George Watson, Thomas Glaholm, and Forster Walker—signed a notice (of which a printed copy, marked A., is sent herewith), convening a public meeting of the inhabitants of the borough of Gateshead, "to take into consideration the best means of supporting His Majesty's Ministers in their measure of Corporation Reform;" and that at the meeting which was held in pursuance of such notice, on the 13th of August, 1835, and at which Mr. Alderman Pollock presided, a petition (of which a copy marked B. is hereunto annexed) was *unanimously* adopted, in which the petitioners declared that "they hailed with gratitude and delight" the introduction of the bill; that its enactments were "founded upon the strictest principles of justice," being in fact the "restoration to the people of those rights and privileges of which they had been so long deprived by a corrupt and pernicious system of municipal usurpation;" that the revenues of the common lands and property originally granted to the burgesses of Gateshead had been misapplied since the passing of the Enclosure Act of 1814; that the Boroughholders had since that period divided the net proceeds of the property in equal proportions amongst themselves, instead of applying those proceeds, "as theretofore, to the use and benefit of the inhabitants at large;" and that, consequently, they (the petitioners) "viewed the application to Gateshead of the provisions of the Bill as an act of strict justice, calculated to restore to the burgesses their just and ancient rights."

It would have been candid, I repeat, if Messrs. Watson, Glaholm, and Walker had made mention of themselves as among the conveners of this meeting; but more candid still would it have been, if Messrs. George Watson and Thomas Glaholm had informed the Secretary of State that they not only silently acquiesced in, but actually signed the said petition.

Having now stated, fairly and fully, such portions of the history of the Borough Question as the Committee of the Boroughholders have thought it desirable either to garble or to suppress entirely, in their communication to Sir James Graham, I proceed to the real subject-matter of their complaint against me as a Magistrate.

On the 3d of April last, the Town Council appointed a Committee to inquire into and report upon certain obstructions to ancient footpaths, which, it was alleged, had been made on the Windmill Hills. The Committee of the Boroughholders wish Sir James Graham to believe, that "the matter was taken up by *one* of the Council," on "personal" grounds—an imputation which, although not aimed at myself, I verily believe to be unfounded. But the motive of the originator of the resolution is of no consequence. The matter was "taken up," *not* by *one* of the Council, but by the *whole* Council. The Com-

Digitized by Google

mittee were appointed *unanimously*—and at a meeting at which Mr. John Lister, jun., one of the subscribing parties to the letter sent to Sir James Graham, was present.

On the 8th of May, the Report of this Committee was presented. It detailed the various encroachments and obstructions which the Boroughholders had committed on the ancient footpaths on the Windmill Hills. On the Report being read, a motion was made, instructing the Committee to take such steps as they might deem most expedient for removing the said obstructions. This resolution was passed unanimously—and that, too, at a meeting in which, according to the minutes of the Town-Council, both Mr. John Lister and Mr. John Lister, jun., two of the complainants against me, were *present*.

The correspondence which took place in consequence of this resolution, between the Town Clerk and Mr. Swinburne, the Secretary of the Boroughholders is, I have no doubt, correctly given in the copy which, it appears, has been sent to the Secretary of State. The Town-Council Committee *did* refuse to confer with the Boroughholders:—they insisted upon the restoration of the ancient footpaths.

The Committee of the Boroughholders inform Sir James Graham, that in consequence of such refusal on the part of the Town-Council Committee, they (the Boroughholders' Committee) determined, on the 29th of May, to open out the footpaths which had been illegally obstructed. Had they communicated this their reluctant resolution to the Town Clerk, instead of keeping it secret, the proceedings complained of, which took place on the 30th, would most probably have not occurred. All that the Town-Council Committee required, was the removal of the obstructions to the footpaths; consequently, had the Boroughholders' Committee communicated to the Town Clerk their intention of removing those obstructions, the Town-Council Committee, of course, would have taken no further steps in the matter. But no such communication was made; and the reason of this reserve is not revealed in the letter to Sir James Graham.

The Committee of the Boroughholders say, that on the afternoon of the 29th of May, a printed placard, purporting to be a "proclamation," was issued; and, they add, it was printed by the person who prints the *Gateshead Observer*, of which newspaper I am a proprietor. I know that such a paper was printed—because I saw a copy of it. But I have no control over the printer of the *Gateshead Observer*. I, as one of the proprietors, pay Mr. Douglas (the person alluded to) for printing the newspaper, the same as the author of the "proclamation" would doubtless pay him for printing it. I have no concern with Mr. Douglas in his printing-business, and consequently have no more authority to interfere with him than any other of his customers.

But admitting, for the sake of argument, that this proclamatory squib was the cause of the pulling-down of the walls—and that the printer of the said squib was a principal party concerned in the "outrage," as it is called, which occurred on the Windmill Hills—it seems to me, to say the least of it, rather strange that the Boroughholders, who pretend to have been aggrieved, should have instituted no legal proceedings against him.

The account given of a procession from the townhall to the Windmill Hills—of the long poles, and of the flags thereunto attached—of the destructive propensities of the "pitmen *and other idle persons*" assembled on the occasion—it is unnecessary to comment upon. All I have to say is, that *I* proceeded, from the townhall in the capacity of a member of a Committee appointed by the Town Council, to obtain a restoration to the public of certain ancient footpaths; that several persons, many of whom probably were "idle," if want of employment is to be called idleness, but not one of whom appeared to me to be "disorderly," accompanied the Committee to the Windmill Hills; and that I am not aware that the Committee had any right to prevent (even had they had the inclination to do so) so natural an expression of public concurrence in the proceedings of the Town Council.

The obstructions having been removed, or at least full instructions having been given to the subordinates for the removal of the obstructions, the Committee left the ground, or, at least, a portion of them, of which I was one, did so. We retired to the house of Mr. Potts. Mr. Davis, however, whom the Committee of the Boroughholders say accompanied us to Mr. Potts's house, did *not* so accompany us. Whilst in Mr. Potts's house, we were told that the people had commenced pulling down the walls at the western extremity of the hills. The reply of Mr. Potts was, that he was not surprised at their doing so, because they had done so some years ago, when a wall was erected near to the house in which he lived. The public, he said, seemed determined to maintain their undoubted right of a free use of the surface of the Windmill Hills.

Shortly afterwards, we were told that the walls had been almost entirely thrown down; and on going to a front window of the house, I saw that this was the case. I declared then, as I declare now, that I was not sorry to see it; that I believed the public of Gateshead were entitled to the free use of the Windmill Hills; and that neither Council nor Boroughholders, without legislative or other legal authority, could deprive them of that use. So far from disapproving, I approved of the proceeding. There was no violence—no breach of the peace. Nothing could be more unanimous; and had either Magistrate or police-officer interfered, I should have considered that he would have so far overstepped his duty, as to render himself liable to a prosecution.

Of the pretended "proclamation," then, I knew nothing, until it appeared. With the alleged regaling of a "mob" with three half-barrels of beer, or with the giving of ale or beer to *any* parties concerned in the proceedings, I had nothing whatever to do. The printer of the *Gateshead Observer*, I have no doubt, printed the proclamation, and he may have assisted, also, in *preventing* the ravages of a "mob;" but for these acts, culpable or laudable, it is obvious that he, and he alone, is responsible.

It is stated by the Committee of the Boroughholders, that I was "charged" by some one with ordering walls to be pulled down where no footpath had ever been, and that I answered that "I had travelled all over the place, and that the walls should be all down." I do not recollect of any such charge being made, or of any such reply; but I do recollect well, that when Mr. Revely, the Chairman of the Town-Council Committee, was saying that a wall should be pulled down in a certain spot, which I thought was not marked upon the plan, I observed that we (the Committee) were present as mere executors of the instructions of the Town Council, and that Mr. Ledger—the surveyor who had made the plan, and who was present with it—ought to point out the places where the walls were to be taken down—and that no other portions of the walls ought to be interfered with.

At the same time, it would be disingenuous in me—it would be following the example of the Boroughholders' Committee more closely than would be agreeable to me—were I not to tell you, that I think the public were perfectly justified in pulling down every part and parcel of the walls which had been built by the Boroughholders on the Windmill Hills.

The Enclosure Act of 1814 reserved the Windmill Hills from enclosure, and vested the property—the legal estate—in the Boroughholders and Freemen—the body corporate for the time being—subject to all rights which had been previously acquired by other parties in connection with it. Among those rights, the public right of freely using the surface as a place of recreation, has been exercised from time immemorial. The oldest inhabitants of the borough testify to this fact:—indeed, some of the oldest Boroughholders themselves admit it. The building of the walls was part of a nefarious scheme for depriving the public of this immemorial occupancy, and for paving the way for an illegal and disgusting partition of the property among the Boroughholders themselves.

The Boroughholders, some time ago, took Counsel's opinion, *on a "case" prepared by themselves*, as to their power of selling, or otherwise alienating, the Borough Property. On this their own "case," the counsel whom they consulted told them that they could not proceed to any disposition of the property, except by a trust-deed, signed by every individual Boroughholder. Such a deed, I, as well as many other Boroughholders, have not signed. Admitting, then, this "opinion" to be correct, by what authority, I should like to know, have the Boroughholders and Freemen of Gateshead presumed to erect walls, without my consent, on a property of which I am a tenant in common? By their own showing, I, at any rate, have a right to pull down erections on the property. And if this their view of the case be the correct one, I cannot but feel obliged to the public who, on the 30th of May, removed a series of encroachments on my property, to which I never consented,

Digitized by Google

and which, if it really be my property, I shall never submit to see reërected thereon.

I now conclude this communication—which, out of respect to you, Mr. Mayor, and my brother Magistrates, I have made much longer than the circumstances of the case required.

The attack which has been made upon me, in the communication to Sir James Graham, I consider, in every phase and bearing of it, a compliment. In my proceedings, as a Town Councillor and a Boroughholder, in connection with the Borough Property Question, I have quite as little to regret or to be ashamed of, as I have in any matter whatever connected with the performance of my duty as a Magistrate. To my fellow-townsmen, however different in creed or station—to those who have been the most diametrically opposed to me in either general or local politics—I fearlessly refer for testimony to my character. I care not to which page of my past history my accusers may refer—they will find, I firmly believe, that honour, and truth, and consistency, are imprinted there. That I value the commission of the peace, under the circumstances under which it was conferred upon me, I feel pleasure in admitting; but I should deem myself unworthy indeed of the confidence of either my Sovereign or my fellow-townsmen, were I to shrink from an honest avowal of my opinions, for the paltry purpose of maintaining my position. If I have done anything unworthy of a Magistrate, I beg that I may be dismissed. But if, on the other hand, the Secretary of State shall see no cause why an Englishman, on becoming a Magistrate, should forget his duties as a citizen and a man, then I expect these my explanations will be pronounced to be satisfactory.

It is a matter of little consequence to me, whether I be relieved from the duties of a Magistrate or not. The admissions I have made will, I hope, save you some trouble: I am sorry you should have had any on my account. I feel obliged to the Secretary of State for furnishing you, not only with the accusation, but with the names of my accusers. I rejoice that the investigation has been entrusted to your hands; because I am confident that although you differ from me on the Borough Property Question, you will be an impartial and upright inquirer. Conscious of the rectitude of my intentions, I feel as proud in the retrospect of my magisterial life, as I am fearless of the consequences of this inquiry. I pity, too, the position of the complainants; for although the temptation to the gratification of low revenge, in vulgar and ill-constituted minds, is frequently irresistible, I honestly believe that, on this occasion, the majority of my accusers have been but the tools of a crafty adversary who, to further his designs, has sacrificed both the consistency and veracity of his associates.

I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,

WILLIAM HENRY BROCKETT.

The Mayor of Gateshead.

THE REPLY OF MR. DAVIS.

Wrekenton, July 23, 1844.

DEAR SIR,—In replying to a letter addressed to the Right Honourable Sir James Graham, Bart., by a Committee of the Boroughholders and Freemen of Gateshead, I shall not comment upon the differences which exist between the Town Council and the Boroughholders and Freemen, relative to the legal ownership of the property upon which a gross outrage is alleged to have been committed, but simply confine myself to the charges brought against me.

At the Council meeting held on the 6th of May last, (present, Mr. Mayor, in the chair, Aldermen John Barras, W. H. Brockett, Thomas Wilson, James Pollock, and Robert Davis, and Councillors John Edward, Ralph Wylam, Cornelius Garbutt, John Lister, sen., John Lister, jun., Thomas Revely, Joseph Robson, John Potts, and James Smith,) it was resolved unanimously, that a Committee, consisting of Mr. Revely, Mr. Potts, Mr. Brockett, Mr. Smith, Mr. Garbutt, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Edward, and myself, be instructed to take such steps as they might deem most expedient for removing the obstructions built across the footpaths on the Windmill Hills. The Town Clerk, at the request of the Committee, sent a copy of the resolution to the Secretary and Stewards of the Boroughholders and Freemen, with a letter respectfully requesting that they would remove the obstructions before the 27th of May, otherwise the Committee of the Council would be under the necessity of doing so. Further correspondence took place (copies of which are before your Worship), wherein the Boroughholders and Freemen were informed that the Committee had no power to compromise the matter, but simply to carry out the instructions of the Council, and were again earnestly solicited to remove the obstructions. The Commmittee of the Council, being anxious to avoid the necessity of doing this unpleasant duty, agreed to wait other three days, and not meet until the 30th, hoping that the good sense of the well-disposed part of the Boroughholders might still prevail. On the 30th, the obstructions still remained, without any hope or promise that they would be removed. The Committee were then obliged to act; and in doing so, I have every reason to believe, were most anxious not to exceed the instructions of the Council. Before commencing, Mr. Ledger, the surveyor, was particularly requested not to make the openings wider than four feet (the width adopted in the award for the division of the town-fields), nor to meddle with any of the footpaths except those marked upon the plan.

The memorialists state, that they gave directions to their builder, on the 29th, to make openings in the walls. If so, why did they not communicate their good intentions to the Town Clerk? By so doing they would have put an immediate stop to the proceedings of the Council.

I now, Mr. Mayor, come to the squib, or proclamation, and solemnly declare that I know nothing about its origin. Living in the country, I heard nothing respecting it until I arrived at the townhall on the morning of the 30th. I never in my life had anything to do with this or any other mock proclamation. My firm belief at the time was, that it was published with the intention of throwing ridicule or odium upon the Committee of the Council, and I felt it as such. I deny most flatly that the Committee walked in procession, bearing flags. We had not a flag of any description. The surveyor had surveying poles, but unfortunately no surveying flags. When we got to the ground, the poles could not be seen. He put his handkerchief upon one: a boy's cap was put upon another, and a man's hat upon a third. They were all used in marking out the direction of the footpaths. I deny that I had any intention to disturb any other part of the walls, nor did I suspect that it was the intention of any person to do so. My most anxious wish was to avoid giving any unnecessary offence, or rendering the unfortunate difference between the Town Council and the Boroughholders still wider.

The charge of going to Mr. Potts's house, and viewing the destruction of the walls from his window, is equally false. I never was in Mr. Potts's house in my life, nor was I in any house on the Windmill Hills that day. I remained near the surveyor until all the openings in the walls were marked: I then left the place—at which time a stone had not been disturbed by the populace, nor had I any reason to suppose they intended doing so.

I deny giving any instructions to the police, or to a printer, or any other person, or having any communication with them, either directly or indirectly.

I also deny giving any ale to any person or persons, or knowing or suspecting that any other person intended to do so.

In conclusion, I am compelled to state, that as far as regards myself, the charges brought against me do not contain one word of truth, from begining to end; and I am fully prepared to prove that such is the case.

I feel grateful to Sir James Graham for this open inquiry; for I have no doubt the memorial of the Boroughholders' Committee was never intended to meet the eyes of the inhabitants of Gateshead.

I am, dear Sir, yours most respectfully,

The Mayor of Gateshead. ROBERT DAVIS.

After the replies of Mr. Brockett and Mr. Davis had been read by Mr. Swinburne, the Clerk to the Magistrates, Messrs. B. and D. left the room.

THE PITMEN'S STRIKE.

(From the *Gateshead Observer*, July 27, 1844.)

THE union has been able to allow its members 5s. for each married couple, and a shilling a piece for each child, up to the present time. How long this can be continued is not certainly known; but we suspect, from the desponding tone of their attorney and orator, Mr. Roberts, at the meeting held at Chorley, last week, that the funds of the union are running low; and we learn from a Newcastle gentleman that the club-funds, and the savings which individual colliers had in the savings'

Digitized by Google

banks, are all drawn out.—*Liverpool Times.* [We believe that, from the very beginning, the union has made no regular allowance whatever to the turn-outs. Our Liverpool contemporary has been egregiously hoaxed.—Ed. G.O.]

Mr. Dodds, of the Side, Newcastle, printer of the *Miners' Advocate*, received an intimation on Thursday, headed "Attorney-General *v.* Dodds," of a prosecution for publishing his journal on unstamped paper.

The Marquis of Londonderry's latest epistle, so far as we are informed, is in the form of a proclamation to his tradesmen of Seaham Harbour. These are the words:—

"The Marquis of Londonderry has given orders that *no person*, pitman or workman, is to be permitted to come in his carriages, or any of *their* families, to Seaham Harbour, for the purpose of marketing or buying goods, who *are* not *bona fide* at his work, and employed in his collieries.

"Lord Londonderry again warns all the shopkeepers and tradesmen in his town of Seaham, that if they still give credit to pitmen who hold off work, and continue in the union, such men will be marked by his agents and overmen, and will never be employed in his collieries again; and the shopkeepers may be assured they will never have any custom or dealings with them from Lord Londonderry's large concerns, that he can in any manner prevent.

"Lord Londonderry further informs the traders and shopkeepers, that having by his measures increased very largely the last year's trade to Seaham, if credit is so improperly and so fatally given to his unreasonable pitmen, thereby prolonging the injurious strike, it is his firm determination to carry back all the outlay of his concerns even to Newcastle; because it is neither fair, just, nor equitable, that the resident traders in *his own town* should combine, and assist the infatuated workmen and pitmen in prolonging their own miseries, by continuing an insane strike, and an unjust and senseless warfare against *their proprietors* and masters. "Vane Londonderry."

Edward Richardson, a mining delegate, who, on the 10th inst., vainly "entreated the Marquis" to use his "powerful influence" for the "settlement of the present unhappy differences," has published his lordship's ludicrous letter in the form of a handbill, and accompanied it with many compliments to the man whom he would fain have prevailed upon to become an arbitrator. The miner does not turn round upon the Marquis with a very good grace, but the noble lord has certainly laid himself fairly open to remark.

On Wednesday, four steam-boats, laden with pitmen from the Tyne, and having on board a band of musicians, arrived at Blyth-quay in the morning; and at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, a large meeting was held on Blyth links, which was addressed by various speakers. Although the strike has now continued sixteen weeks, the pitmen declared their determination "to hold out until their rights are obtained."

Mr. Henry Burrell presided at a crowded public meeting, in the Music Hall, Newcastle, on Thursday night, convened to hear the "causes and effects of the strike further explained," &c. Messrs. Archer, Dent, Embleton, Fawcett, Hardy, and Richardson, were the speakers.

The coal-trade return of the week ending July 20, showing the number of hewers then at work, the number of men that had left the union, and the amount of coal raised per day, in the collieries of the Tyne, Wear, and Tees, is as follows:—

	Hewers.	Seceders.	Chaldrons per day.
Tyne	2215	366	3040
Wear	1560	585	2096
Tees	1067	419	1455
Total	4842	1370	6592
Return to July 13	4334	1073	5984
Increase on the week	499	297	607

East Hetton colliery is now at full work. The owners are winning—with 20 hewers less than were engaged previous to the strike—26 chaldrons more coals per day. The hands employed consist partly of regular pitmen, who have left the union, and partly of trimmers (from Hartlepool), agricultural labourers, tailors, shoemakers, &c.; all of whom are working at the score price given last year, and have averaged, during the last fortnight, 4s. 1½d. per man per day, with which they are—as they may well be—quite satisfied. The above rate of wages is within a fraction of the average paid at this colliery, before the restrictive system was brought into operation.—*Durham Chronicle.*

22 pitmen, chiefly from Wales and Cornwall, were this week brought before the magistrates at Alnwick, charged with having abandoned their work at Ratcliffe colliery, in breach of their bond. Mr. Busby, solicitor, objected to the reception of the bond in evidence, on the ground that it was not proved by an attesting witness.—Case dismissed.—[William Dickson, Esq., Clerk of the Peace, stated to the men, when they were brought into court to be discharged, that they had been charged with leaving the service of Mr. Brown, to whom they were engaged under bond, which could not be proved in the absence of the attesting witness. But if the bond were afterwards proved against them, Mr. Brown could have them again apprehended for leaving their employment. They were now at liberty to go back to Mr. Brown's employment.—Mr. Busby regretted that the men had been treated too harshly, after being brought so far from home, to leave any hope of that kind.—Mr. Brown alleged that the men in his employment were kindly treated.—Mr. Busby advised the men to conduct themselves peaceably, and to obey the law.]

A correspondent of the *Durham Chronicle*, writing on Thursday, says:—"A most daring and diabolical outrage was committed yesterday morning, at Waldridge colliery, near Chester-le-Street, by some heartless villain, firing a gun, heavily loaded, through the window-shutters of a house occupied by John Walker, a deputy—by which he and his wife were severely injured, whilst asleep in bed. The police are in active search of the offender." Some murderous scoundrels (the *Chronicle* adds) have perpetrated a similar outrage at Rainton, in the Marquis of Londonderry's collieries, by firing "a shot" in the window-sole of one of the "black-legs"—which was so heavily charged as to shatter the walls, and to cause the explosion to be heard two miles off.

Several miners, convicted at York of riot, and of assault, with intent to do grievous bodily harm, have been sentenced to fourteen years' transportation.

The *Staffordshire Advertiser* reports the proceedings of a recent conference of mining delegates, held in the Temperance Hall, Burslem. From 40 to 50 were present, including several from this district. Other meetings, consisting of pitmen, were held in the villages, when the conference was sitting. An appeal was made, by Mr. Roberts and others, for pecuniary aid to the northern "strike." On the whole, our contemporary considers the demonstration to have been a failure.

Newcastle Infirmary:—Election of House Surgeon.—On the 16th July, the subscribers proceeded to the election of a house-surgeon in the place of Mr. Baird, deceased.—Sir John Fife, Mayor, was in the chair.—R. S. Surtees, Esq., of Hamsterley Hall, nominated Mr. Annandale, and dwelt upon the high encomiums bestowed upon that gentleman by Mr. Lizars and Mr. Liston.—Mr. Ald. Nichol, J.P., in seconding the nomination, referred to the extensive practice enjoyed by Mr. Annandale, and obtained solely through his high professional qualifications.—Mr. Ald. Lamb, J.P., proposed Mr. H. G. Potter, stating that he had successively studied in Edinburgh, London, Paris, Berlin, and Vienna, and had "walked the hospitals" of nearly every capital in Europe. At home, he had not only practised his profession, and attended two extensive collieries, but had also been several years engaged as a lecturer in the Newcastle School of Medicine and Surgery; and if elected on the present occasion, he would do honour to one of the noblest institutions of the town.—Mr. Clayton, town-clerk, seconded the nomination. Mr. Potter, he said, not only possessed the highest professional qualifications for the office to which he aspired, but was endowed with a kind and gentle disposition, and that expanded charity of heart which knew no distinctions of high and low, rich and poor.—Mr. Talmadge was nominated by Mr. Andrew Grey, and seconded by Mr. John Bulman.—The Mayor then took the votes of the subscribers—each of whom, after his qualification was ascertained, was admitted to an adjoining room, in which he recorded his vote *alone*, and by ballot, that the institution might enjoy the result of a free and unbiassed eletion. The numbers for the respective candidates were found to be as follows:—

For Mr. H. G. Potter 202
For Mr. Annandale 151
For Mr. Talmadge 73

Mr. Potter was therefore declared to be duly elected, and the proceedings terminated.—[We congratulate the institution on the election of an admirable surgeon and estimable man; without, however, the slightest wish invidiously to disparage his able and honourable competitors.]

Digitized by Google

THE PITMEN'S STRIKE.

(From the *Gateshead Observer*, Aug. 3, 1844.)

THE "strike" still holds, but we have reason to hope that it will terminate shortly—perhaps next week.

204 miners, many of them with their wives, families, and furniture, arrived in Newcastle on Tuesday night, from Wales, and were conveyed by a special train to the Percy Main railway-station. Thence they were conducted to Cramlington, Seghill, and Seaton Delaval, and placed in possession of colliery cottages.

The Lambton collieries (the *Durham Chronicle* states) are nearly fully peopled; the Marquis of Londonderry's collieries are in a like condition; Belmont has obtained its complement; South Hetton and Kelloe are also full; the Pelton men have gone in; in short, from what we hear from every quarter, we entertain no doubt that it will be our gratifying duty, in our next publication, to announce *the resumption of the coal trade* in the broadest sense of the terms.

On Monday evening, a public meeting, which was numerously and respectably attended, was held in the Arcade Room, Sunderland, (Mr. G. Charlton in the chair,) when addresses from Messrs. Fairley and Dent (miners' delegates recently returned from London), and Messrs. Archer and Hardy, were delivered. There was nothing novel in the facts stated, or in the style of treating the subject of the strike; except, perhaps, in the speech of Hardy, who gave his "experience" of the system of monthly bonds in Derbyshire. His statements went to show that a reduction of wages, monthly pays, and tommy or truck shops, were the immediate result of the adoption of the monthly bond there; and like effects, he argued, would follow it here.

The unionists of the two counties held a meeting on Newcastle moor (by permission of the Worshipful the Mayor), on Tuesday last, at noon. At eleven o'clock, they assembled, by previous concert, at Sunderland road-end, in the borough of Gateshead, and marched thence, in procession, to the moor, with music and banners. The numbers were very large. The time occupied in passing our office was an hour and six minutes; and we ascertained, by an average of repeated experiments, that they passed at the rate of a hundred per minute; so that the total number would be 6,600. A neighbour, however, who calculated the numbers in a somewhat different manner, made them amount to about 8,000. The *Tyne Mercury* states, that there were pitmen present from 136 collieries on the Tyne, Wear, and Tees, and that there were from 25,000 to 30,000 persons assembled on the moor! If so, the meeting must have received large accessions of numbers from the north side of the Tyne. Mr. Mark Dent was called to the chair, and resolutions were adopted as follows:—

1. That as the miners of these two counties have now struck work upwards of sixteen weeks, and having, at various intervals, offered to meet the owners in order to come to some amicable arrangements, rather than risk the ruin of the trade; and though those overtures, on our part, have been met with insult and contempt, yet this meeting is of opinion, that all unpleasantness of this kind shall be forgotten, if they (the owners) will, at the present time, come forward and endeavour to adjust all differences.

2. That, in the opinion of this meeting, our gratitude is due to those shopkeepers, and other friends, who have so kindly supported us in our present struggle; and we fully expect they will continue to do so, in order to enable us to discharge, in an honourable manner, all our obligations, and at the same time to assist us in bringing the present struggle to a successful termination.

3. That, in the opinion of this meeting, the prosecution commenced against the organ of this association, viz., the *Miners' Advocate*, is unjust, oppressive, and totally uncalled-for, inasmuch as the paper has reached its eighteenth number without being disturbed: it therefore shows a spirit of malice and vindictiveness, unworthy of the age we live in. We, therefore, pledge ourselves to stand by, and support that paper more firmly and energetically than hitherto, and to exert ourselves in making it a stamped paper, as soon as possible.

For the more oppressors bind us,
The more united they shall find us.

4. That, in the opinion of this meeting, the state of the markets, as the winter stock must of necessity be immediately got in, and the conduct of the masters in using so many schemes and plots to get us to work, warrants us to believe that fresh conditions will soon be offered; and this meeting recommends each man to stand out against the monthly bond, and no surrender.

The speakers were Messrs. James Hardy, Thomas Pratt, Robert Archer, Thomas Wakinshaw, Thomas Hay, Charles Revely, W. Bird, J. Fawcett, and E. Smith. The proceedings closed with three cheers for Sir John Fife, the Miners' Association, and the shopkeepers. The weather was very unfavourable, rain falling during the whole of the march and the meeting, but the pitmen went through their "demonstration" unmoved.

"Thomas Lowrey, Secretary," sent a letter to a Bishop Auckland pitman, the other day, intimating to him that "unless he left work on or before Saturday, August 3, he would no longer be a member of the Honourable Order of Ancient Shepherds." An "*honourable* order," indeed! and entertaining pretty notions of liberty!

Robert Brown and George Mucklerey, of Edmondsley, pitmen, were on Wednesday committed to Durham gaol by Walker Featherstonhaugh and Edward Johnson, Esqrs., charged with having, in the night of Thursday, the 25th of July, fired a loaded gun into the houses of John Walker and Wilkinson Morgan, of Waldridge, pitmen, thereby wounding the former and his wife.

(From the *Gateshead Observer*, Aug. 10, 1844.)

THE coal-trade return of the week ending Aug. 3, showing the number of hewers then at work, the number of men that had left the union, and the amount of coal raised per day, in the collieries of the Tyne, Wear, and Tees, is as follows:—

	Hewers.	Seceders.	Chaldrons per day.
Tyne	2307	694	3866
Wear	2079	965	2612
Tees	1142	630	1635
Total	5523	2089	7513
Return to July 27	5040	1447	6866
Increase on the week	483	642	667

Mr. Duncombe, M.P., presented to the House of Commons, on Wednesday, a petition from the delegates, complaining of the introduction of strangers to the northern collieries, under the authority of the poor-law commissioners. Sir James Graham observed, in reply, that Sir John Walsham, who was a landowner in Herefordshire and South Wales, might have been instrumental in his private capacity to the transference of labour to the colliery districts of Durham and Northumberland, but he had not done anything of the kind in his character of an assistant commissioner. Sir James Graham deplored the strike, and the displacement of old workmen, but the coal-owners were driven to the employment of new hands. [We have elsewhere denied, on authority, the statements made as to Sir John Walsham, which are utterly false.]

On Wednesday, near midnight, a three-inch pump, loaded with powder and large pieces of iron, was placed against the cottage of a pitman at Andrew's House colliery, and fired through the door. Luckily the poor man and his family escaped unhurt. Many pieces of the iron were found in the house.

21 additional policemen have been appointed by Major Wemyss, at the request of the owners of the undermentioned collieries, (by whom they are to be paid and clothed,) namely, Marquis of Londonderry's collieries, 4; Heworth colliery, 3; Pontop and Medomsley, 3; Jarrow, 2; Coxhoe, 2; Washington, 1; South Pelaw, 1; Thornley, 1; Etherley, 1; Trimdon, 1; Oxclose 1; Castle Eden, 1.

"The strike of the pitmen (says Mr. Matthias Dunn, in a letter to the *Economist*,) has arisen from the baneful influence of the union. Not but that there were examples of undue severity and harshness; but the quarrelling with the yearly bonds, including house and fire for 6d. per fortnight, is one of the most wicked and mischevious things that ever was attempted, and has forced the owners into contention, which will now end with the monthly notice. No other miners in the kingdom had above two or four weeks' hiring, with their own house and fire to find: hence the superiority of the men of this district over those of any other. But the die is cast now."

The *Economist*, in reply to the foregoing remarks, and to Mr. Dunn's apology for the coalowners' combination, and his advocacy of government inspectorships, observes:—"It is nothing but a vicious circle this legislative interference, one act rendering the other necessary, or at least serving as an apology for it; and we ask for its condemnation and extinction as a whole. It is impossible to doubt the kindly feeling which prompts to the protection of helpless beings immured in coal-pits. But what are the laws which make their social condition so dependent, so degraded? Who make laws to restrict the amount of their wages (for a tax on bread amounts to that)?

Digitized by Google

Mercy is an excellent attribute, but justice stands before it in our category of morals. It is for this reason, also, that we look with feelings of strong dislike, not to say disgust, upon all that is said of the pitmen's 'insane strike,' of 'the baneful influence of their union,' &c., &c., by the Marquis of Londonderry, Mr. Dunn, and others, going downward; while a union more wealthy, more ignorant, more insolent, and more overbearing than theirs, is not only supported by those gentlemen, but its constitution and conduct actually praised. There would be fewer of these quarrels if the parties all saw their interests in their true light. They should study political economy. Parliament will never do them much good. By the ordination of nature, *that* comes mostly from men themselves."

THE NEWCASTLE TOWN COUNCIL.

p Sir JOHN FIFE, Mayor.

ALDERMEN.	p Ingledew, H.	p Taylor, F.	*St. John.*
p Batson, T. R.	p Straker, G.	p Rayne, C.	p Cookson, Wm.
p Bell, Thomas	p Harle, W. L.	*W. All Saints.*	p Radford, J.
Bigge, C. J.	p Robinson, R.	p Ormston, J.	p Plues, Matthew
p Brandling, J.	p Stokoe, S.	p Parker, A.	Charnley, E
p Carr, John	*N. St. Andrew.*	Sillick, J.	p Brown, William
p Donkin, A.	Archbold, J.	p Carr, J. T.	p Burrell, I.
p Dunn, G. T.	p Philipson, R. P.	Proctor, W. B.	*Westgate.*
p Headlam, Dr.	p Keenlyside, T.	p Hall, Edward	p Hawthorn, R.
p Hodgson, J.	p Dodds, Ralph	*E. All Saints.*	p Finlay, James
p Lamb, Joseph	p Blackwell, J.	Ridley, John	p Bargate, George
p Loah, James	Dunn, Thomas	p Hunter, John	*Jesmond.*
p Potter, A. L.	*S. St. Andrew.*	p Lowrey, S.	p Armstrong, W.
p Nichol, A.	p Weatherley, J. D	p Crawhall, J.	p Plummer, R.
COUNCILLORS.	p Gray, A. G.	p Shield, Henry	p Turner, Henry
St. Nicholas'.	p Sanderson, F.	p Turner, Wm.	—
p Nichol, John	p Jobling, M. L.		

[Those marked p were present.]

THE Council met on the 7th Aug.—On the motion of Ald. DUNN, seconded by Ald. NICHOL, an address of congratulation to the Queen was unanimously adopted; and a similar compliment was paid to Prince Albert, on the motion of Mr. ARMSTRONG, seconded by Mr. HARLE.

Jane Scott, aged 71, was elected to a vacancy in Jesus' Hospital. There were five other candidates.

The MAYOR showed to the Council an elegant silver ticket, presented to him by the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway Company, that he and his successors might travel on the line free from charge. (Applause.)

Ann Mainwaring was appointed matron to the gaol; William Spoor, taskmaster; and Spoor's wife under-matron. In reply to Mr. JOHN NICHOL, Ald. NICHOL said he believed the smallness of the salaries was the cause of such frequent changes; and the MAYOR stated that the matter was under the consideration of the Gaol Committee.

One of Sir Thomas White's loans was awarded to Thomas Bell, cooper. Ald. DUNN said there would be no other loan at liberty until 1846.

Ald. NICHOL's proposal to withdraw the motion for considering the Report of the Finance Committee on the offer of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway Company to purchase ground at the Forth, led to a long discussion. The postponement, it was contended, would be unfair to the company; while, on the other hand, it was deemed unfair to the public to part with the property, in the present state of uncertainty as to the line of railway northward; and, after much argumentation, the postponement was carried by 23 votes against 19.

Another long discussion followed on a motion by Mr. ARMSTRONG, seconded by Ald. CARR, to confirm the Reports of the River Committee, recommending that Mr. Woods and Messrs. W. Wylam and others be allowed to erect quays at the Salt Meadows.

An amendment for postponement was negatived by 21 to 18, and an amendment for another line of quay was lost by 21 to 15. The original motion was carried.

Leave was granted to Thomas Salmon to lay down moorings off his quay at South Shields, on condition that they be public.

The Report of the River Committee, as to the elongation of the gears at Wallsend-quay, was confirmed.

The Finance Committee recommended an allowance of £10 10s. per year to Mr. John Selkirk, in consideration of his useful reports of the proceedings of the Council.—Confirmed.

Reports were received from the River Committee, recommending that Robert Blacklock have leave to construct a quay at Bell's Close; that Hawks & Co. also be allowed to build a quay; that the Broad and Crown Glass Company be permitted to extend their quay at St. Lawrence; and that Locke, Blackett, & Co., have leave to build a quay at Walker, 100 yards long.

Mr. ARMSTRONG presented a Report of the River Committee, on the subject of moorings and a river police, to be supported by a tax of a farthing per ton on vessels using the port. The execution and control to be vested by parliament in commissioners—six chosen by the town-council, four by the shipowners of Newcastle and Gateshead, four by the shipowners of St. Hilda's (South Shields), and four by the shipowners of Tynemouth.

Mr. HUNTER presented a memorial praying that the "Ropery Banks" be continued as a public promenade.—Referred to the Property Committee.

On the motion of Ald. DUNN, seconded by Ald. NICHOL, the "Stones Fair" was ordered to be held on the last Wednesday in November.

A motion by Mr. PLUMMER, to abate the town-due on cinders from 2d. in the pound to 1d., was adopted.—Routine business was disposed of, and the meeting was adjourned to the 4th of September.

GATESHEAD TOWN COUNCIL.

p WILLIAM KENNIE, Esq., Mayor.

ALDERMEN.	COUNCILLORS.	p Hymers, J.	Robson, D.
p Barras, John	Bertram, C.	p Kent, Samuel	p Robson, J.
p Brockett, W. H.	Cummins, T.	p Lister, J., sen.	p Smith, James
Pollock, James	Dunn, Charles	p Lister, J., jun.	Sowerby, T.
Sowerby, G.	p Edward, J.	p Potts, John	p Wilson, J. R.
p Wilson, Thos.	p Garbutt, C.	p Revely, T.	p Wylam, Ralph
p Davis, Robert			

[Those marked p were present.]

THE Council met on the 7th of Aug.—The minutes having been read, Ald. BROCKETT begged to inform the Council that the news had just arrived that Her Majesty had yesterday morning received an addition to her family, in the birth of a Prince; and as the Council had always been not only ready but anxious to evince their loyalty to the Sovereign on these occasions, he moved that addresses be presented to Her Majesty and Prince Albert, congratulating them on the happy event, and expressing the sincere wishes of the Council for Her Majesty's recovery.

Seconded by Mr. REVELY, and carried unanimously.

It was resolved that the addresses be forwarded to the Secretary of State for presentation.

A Report of the Watch Committee on the appointment of constables and payments of bills was received and confirmed, on the motion of Mr. J. R. WILSON, seconded by Mr. JAMES HYMERS.

The Highway Committee reported a long correspondence which had taken place between them and the Union Gas Company, respecting the charge for lighting the lamps of the borough—the Committee having endeavoured to prevail upon the Gas Company to light Gateshead as cheaply as Newcastle—whereas the charge asked was 2d. per lamp more. The Gas Company having refused to accede to this request, the Committee had no alternative but to recommend that the terms of the Gas Company (10d. per lamp per week) should be accepted.—[It was stated that the difference (2d. a lamp) would amount to about £100 a year.]—The motion was agreed to—as also that Mr. Humble should have the glazing and Mr. Elliott the plumber-work of the lamps—on the propositions of Mr. GARBUTT, seconded by Messrs. Ald. BARRAS, JOHN LISTER, jun., and J. SMITH.

Ald. BROCKETT reported from the Parliamentary, Railway, and Bye Law Committee, that they had instructed the Town Clerk to postpone the indictment against the Brandling Junction Railway Company—Mr. Philipson, one of the Directors, having offered to give his personal undertaking that if all matters of dispute between the Council and the Railway Company were left to arbitration, the Company should obey the decision of the arbitrators; and the Committee recommended that arbitration should be resorted to—the arbitrators to be neither Councillors nor Directors of the Railway Company. Mr. WYLAM seconded the receiving of the Report, and it was received accordingly.

A Report from the Town Improvement Committee was read by the TOWN CLERK. It recommended, among other things, that before resorting to arbitration with the Brandling Junction Railway Company, the Railway Company should inform the Committee whether all the claims—or, if not all, then which of the claims of the Council—are disputed by the Company; and

Digitized by Google

that, therefore, they had instructed the Town Clerk to send a list of the claims of the Council to the Railway Company—and that the list had been transmitted accordingly. The Report gave a copy of the list of "claims," and it certainly was one of *goodly* length. The Report was received, on the motion of Mr. REVELY, seconded by Mr. JAMES SMITH.

Leave was given to the Newcastle and Darlington Railway Company to erect a temporary gangway and railway in Greene's-field, on condition that it be removed by the Company at any time when they shall be required to do so by the Council.

The following motion was passed, on the proposition of Ald. BROCKETT, seconded by Mr. JOSEPH ROBSON:—

"That the list of claims on the Brandling Junction Company, contained in the Report of the Town Improvement Committee, is approved by the Council; and that the propriety of referring all matters to arbitration be considered as soon as the answer of the Directors to the list of claims shall have been received by the Town Clerk, and laid before the Council; and that in order to expedite the business, the Town Clerk do convene a special meeting of the Town Council as soon as he shall have received the reply of the Directors."

A long conversation took place respecting Mr. James Hymers's interference with the quay in front of his houses in High-street. He had been summoned before the Magistrates for injuring the footpaths, but the Magistrates had conceived the injury complained of to have been accidental, and dismissed the complaint. Not having asked leave, however, of the Council to remove the quay, and other persons having been summoned on that account, a second application against Mr. Hymers had been made to the Magistrates — who refused to entertain the charge, on the ground that the fourteen days within which, according to the act, complaints must be made, had expired. Mr. EDWARD thought that the same penalties should be enforced against Mr. Hymers as had been enforced against other parties. Mr. HYMERS denied that he had committed any offence—there was no footpath on the quay in front of his house—its removal became absolutely necessary, after a quay in front of the adjoining house had beeen removed by permission of the Council—it had been exclusively enjoyed by him and his tenants for upwards of twenty years—and he had only done that which he considered persons similarly situated had a perfect right to do.—The TOWN CLERK said no person had a right to touch the quays without leave first obtained from the Council.—It was admitted by all the speakers that the removal would be an improvement; and the MAYOR, Mr. REVELY, Mr. DAVIS, and several other Councillors tried to prevail upon Mr. Hymers to ask leave; but Mr. H. positively refused; whereupon Mr. EDWARD moved that the Town Clerk be instructed to enforce the penalties of the Street Act against all persons who infringe its provisions—and, if necessary, proceed by indictment against Mr. Hymers. This was seconded by Mr. WYLAM.—Ald. WILSON moved, as an amendment, that the subject be postponed until next meeting; which Ald. BARRAS seconded. On being put to a show of hands, there appeared six for and six against the amendment; but on the names being taken down, five only voted for it, and seven against.—The original motion was then put—on which eight voted for and four against. It was consequently carried. Three gentlemen declined voting in each case. The following are the names:—

For Mr. Edward's Motion.—Ald. Davis, and Councillors Wylam, Kent, Potts, J. Robson, Wilson, Smith, and Edward.

For Ald. Wilson's Amendment.—Ald. Barras, Brockett, and Wilson, and Councillors J. Lister, sen., and J. Lister, jun.

Neutral.—Councillors Garbutt, Hymers, and Revely.

Ald. BROCKETT asked if the Council had power to remove the quays whether the proprietors of the houses were willing or not; as there were some quays so unsightly and inconvenient that they ought to be instantly removed, if the Council had such power. The TOWN CLERK answered in the affirmative Ald. BROCKETT therefore gave notice, that at the next meeting he would move the following resolution:—

"That the removal of the quays in front of the houses in Gateshead would be a very great public improvement, and that every facility be afforded the proprietors of property in removing the said quays; and as it appears that this Council has the power to remove the said quays in cases where the proprietors refuse or are unable to do so, the Town Improvement Committee be instructed to remove the quay in front of Mr. Inness's house in High-street, the said quay being in every respect most unsightly and inconvenient."

Mr. WYLAM moved, and Mr. POTTS seconded, that the cellar-window in front of Mr. Elliott's house should be closed, and the projections of butchers and others, where contrary to the Street Act, be also removed; which was passed.

The consideration of the Bensham watering-place was postponed, in order to consider a proposal which Mr. Glenton had promised to make on the subject.

The Finance Committee made a Report much more favourable than usual; so much so, that it recommended, and the Council ordered, that the debt due to the Commissioners of the Street Act (£180) should be paid. The expenses of the register of electors were also ordered to be paid by the Overseers to the Town Clerk.

The TOWN CLERK read a Report from the gentlemen who composed the Committee appointed by the Council to remove the footpaths on the Windmill Hills, declaring the imputations of the Boroughholders, in their memorial to Sir James Graham, to be totally "false and unfounded." [This Report appears in our advertising columns.]

Mr. HYMERS moved that the Report be received. Mr. JOSEPH ROBSON seconded the motion. The MAYOR thought it would be better if this Report, and the Replies of the Magistrates, should go together:—the latter had not yet been sent off, Mr. Swinburne having been busily engaged at the assizes.—The motion was then carried—the elder Mr. JOHN LISTER's being the only hand held up against it.

Mr. REVELY moved that the Report be transmitted to Sir James Graham; which was seconded by Mr. ROBSON, and also carried unanimously—with the single exception of Mr. John Lister.

The TOWN CLERK said he had received the first Report of the Health of Towns Committee, and he had been informed that he might have any number of copies of an abridgment of it (which was about to be printed) that could be usefully distributed. He said he had only had time to glance slightly into it; but, among other things, he had already seen that, in one large town, where the gas-works had been taken into the hands of the Council, the latter had been enabled, out of the profits, to apply the enormous sum of £370,000 to the benefit of the town—although the price they charged for gas was only 5s. to 6s. per 1,000 cubic feet, instead of 7s. to 8s., as in Newcastle. The Town Clerk was requested to obtain copies for the Councillors, the Magistrates, the Rector, and such members of the local Health of Towns Committee as had attended its meetings.

The MAYOR stated that he had received a letter from Mr. George Hawks, politely offering a steam boat for the use of the Council on the "Regatta Day," and hoping that they could make it convenient to attend—which was cordially received by the Council.

Ald. WILSON said he had been deputed to inquire whose duty it was to provide a pinfold for the parish, as there was not one at present. Mr. ROBSON said the lord of the manor was desirous of placing one in a convenient situation, and one would be made very soon. The Town Clerk was requested to see Mr. Ellison's steward on the subject.

The meeting adjourned to Sept. 25.

THE WALLS ON THE WINDMILL HILLS.

AT a MEETING of the Gentlemen who, on the 30th of April, 1844, were appointed by the Town Council of the Borough of Gateshead a Committee "to inquire into, and make a Report upon, certain encroachments and alterations of moment, which were stated to have been made of late in the public roads and footpaths on the Windmill Hills," held in the Townhall, Gateshead, on Monday, the 5th of August, 1844, at half-past 6 o'clock in the Evening:—

PRESENT:—Councillor Thomas Revely, Chairman; Aldermen Wilson, Brockett, and Davis; and Councillors James Smith, John Edward, John Potts, and Cornelius Garbutt; being the whole of the members of the Committee:—

Read,—

The Memorial to Sir James Graham, and the Answers of Aldermen Brockett and Davis.

Resolved,—

That this Committee having read the Memorial lately transmitted to Secretary Sir James Graham by the Committee of the Boroughholders and Freemen of Gateshead, and the Replies of Aldermen Brockett and Davis thereto, as published in the *Gateshead Observer* of the 27th of July last, feel it due to those gentlemen and themselves to declare, that the

Digitized by Google

statements in the Memorial, imputing to this Committee the intention of creating a riotous assemblage of persons on the 30th of May last, (particularly by the use of long poles with flags at their tops,) for the purpose of destroying the walls on the Windmill Hills, are totally false and unfounded; and that the statements of the two Magistrates, in their Replies to the Memorial, in reference to the proceedings of the 30th of May, are strictly correct; the Committee, so far from contemplating the total destruction of the walls, having taken the greatest possible pains to confine their proceedings to an opening-out of the ancient footpaths, in strict conformity with the instructions of the Town Council.

And it is also Resolved,—

That as Messrs. Brockett and Davis did, on the 30th of May last, only act in conjunction with the other members of this Committee in executing the orders of the Council, it would be unfair to them if the opinion of this Committee, as expressed in the above Resolution, were not promulgated; and therefore that the same be reported to the Town Council at their next meeting, and that a copy thereof be transmitted to Secretary Sir James Graham.

THOMAS REVELY, Chairman.
JOHN EDWARD.
C. GARBUTT.
JAMES SMITH.
JOHN POTTS.
THOMAS WILSON.

AT a SPECIAL MEETING of the Governors of the Infirmary, held this 8th day of August, 1844, present—The Right Worshipful the MAYOR of Newcastle in the chair, and upwards of 60 other Governors,

It was proposed by

P. G. ELLISON, Esq., seconded by A. L. POTTER, Esq., and carried unanimously,

That the Agreement made by the House Committee with the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway Company, on the 3d of July, 1844, be confirmed.

And it was also proposed by

P. G. ELLISON, Esq., seconded by JOHN BULMAN, Esq., and carried unanimously,

That the 11th Statute, as regards the mode of advertising in the public newspapers, be repealed; and that in future the House Committee be required to insert all advertisements once in each of the newspapers published in Newcastle and Gateshead, with power to insert such advertisements for a longer period, whenever they (the House Committee) shall deem it expedient.

And it was further proposed by

P. G. ELLISON, Esq., and seconded by DIXON DIXON, Esq.,

That the 15th Statute, relating to the restriction against voting by proxy, be repealed; and that instead thereof, the Nobility, Members of Parliament, and Ladies, and other Governors, who reside above the distance of five miles from the Institution, and whose subscriptions shall have been previously paid, shall be allowed to vote by proxy.

Upon which, an amendment was moved by

ARMORER DONKIN, Esq., seconded by A. L. POTTER, Esq.,

That instead of the words "above the distance of five miles from the Institution," the words "beyond the counties of Durham and Northumberland" be inserted.

Whereupon WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, Esq., moved "the previous question;" which being seconded by WILLIAM BOYD, Esq., was, upon a division, carried by a majority of 1.

By order of the Committee,
EDW. YOUNG, Secretary.

"HUDSON-STREET," GATESHEAD.—The new street, as we before stated, will commence at Mr. H. Smith's corner, It will run diagonally into Greene's Field, and terminate a little to the east of the new railway-station, nearly opposite the foot of Melbourne-street. Before entering upon the open ground it will occupy nearly the whole of the site of Mr. Smith's premises—about one-half of Mrs. Lax's—and small portions of Mr. George Watson's and Mr. Elsdon's. The house-property removed will, however, be much smaller in extent than most persons would at first anticipate. Bankwell-stairs will be touched upon by the western side of the thoroughfare. A little more than half-way up the street, on the right hand side, a branch will strike off, from east to west, and lead to the western end of the station. When the sites in the two streets are laid out for building, it is expected that there will be a brisk demand among speculators.

FIRE AT SHIPCOTE.—A fire was discovered on Friday forenoon, the 26th of July, in the straw-house adjoining the barn at Mr. John Sowerby's, Shipcote, in this borough, which was happily got under by the prompt exertions of the persons on the spot. The fire engines of the Newcastle and North British offices were sent for, and soon arrived. The thrashing-machine was partly destroyed, and other injury sustained, to the extent of upwards of £100; and it is most fortunate that there was a good supply of water on the premises—otherwise the hay, corn, and straw stacks, as well as the outbuildings, and perhaps the dwelling-house itself, might have fallen a prey to the flames. The origin of the fire has not been discovered. The property is insured.

QUARTERLY TABLE OF MORTALITY. — From the Registrar-General's last report, we have compiled the following table—which will be of interest to many of our readers:—

MORTALITY.	Gateshead District.	Newcastle District.	Tynemouth District.	Sunderland District.
Population in 1841	38,747	71,850	55,625	56,226
Deaths registered in 1838	881	1,829	1,112	1,479
——— 1839	968	2,117	1,285	1,524
——— 1840	1,016	1,957	1,243	1,513
——— 1841	989	2,104	1,340	1,512
——— 1842	909	1,726	1,327	1,357
——— 1843	984	1,922	1,229	1,247
Quarterly average of the first five years	238	487	315	369
Quarterly average of the springs in those years	211	469	322	374
Deaths in the quarter ending June 30, 1844	216	373	268	307

The mortality of the country in the quarter ending June 30, 1844, was considerably less than in the previous quarter, and less also than in the spring quarter of 1843. "The reduction in the mortality," observes the Registrar General, "has been unequally distributed over the kingdom; but, as a general rule, it has been most remarkable in the large manufacturing districts." Newcastle, Sunderland, and Tynemouth, are among the districts in which there was a reduction in the rate of mortality. "The quarter," says the report, "has been remarkable for the small quantity of rain which fell;" and, after giving a summary of meteorological observations made at Greenwich, Helston, and Falmouth, the Registrar General remarks:—"The publication of the results of a series of simultaneous observations, made on a uniform plan in different parts of the kingdom, could not fail to be highly interesting." The Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle will perhaps take the hint.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, Clayton-street West, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, will be solemnly OPENED on WEDNESDAY, the 21st instant.

A Pontifical HIGH MASS will be celebrated by the Right Rev. Dr. RIDDELL, Bishop of Longo, and a SERMON Preached by the Right Rev. Dr. GILLIS, Bishop of Limyra, at 11 o'clock in the Morning.

Vespers will be chanted at 7 o'clock in the Evening, and a Sermon Preached.

To secure Order, and the Accommodation of Persons attending the Ceremonies, and to assist in defraying the Cost of the Building, Admission to the Church will be by Ticket only, which may be obtained at the House, No. 8, Clayton-street West, on Wednesday the 14th inst., and the Three following Days, between the Hours of 12 and 3 o'clock.

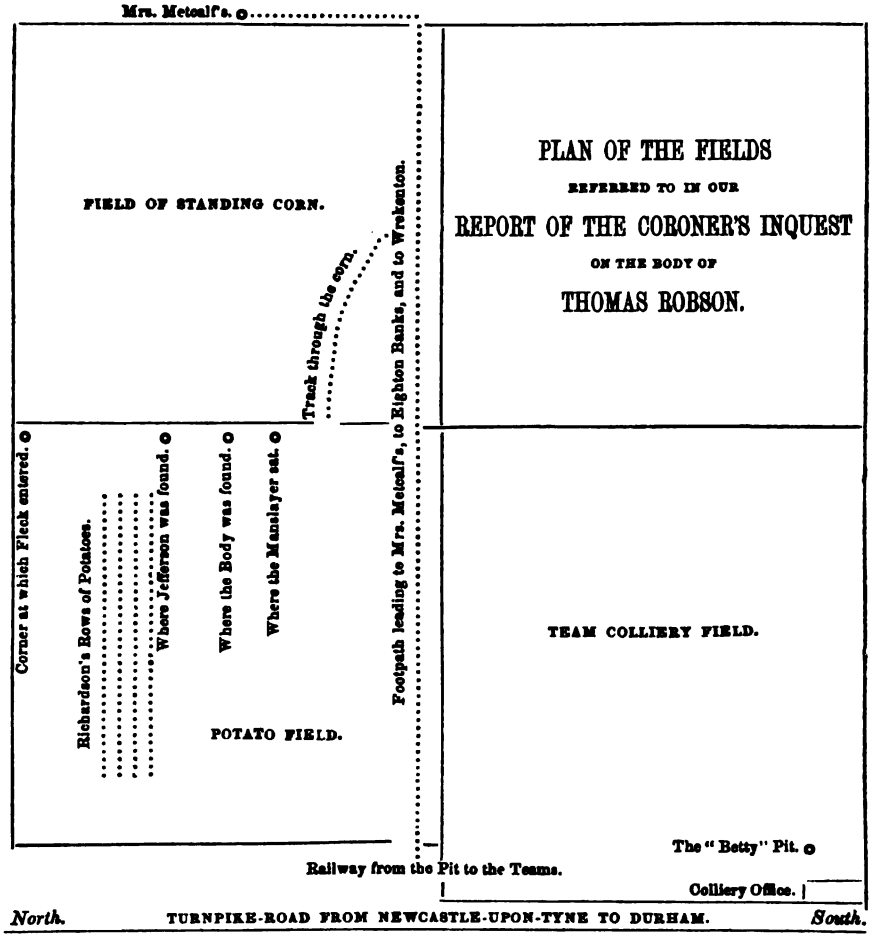
The Doors of the Church will be Opened at 10 o'clock A.M., and at 6 o'clock P.M., on the 21st inst.

A Collection will be made after each Sermon.

August 8, 1844.

Digitized by Google

MYSTERIOUS HOMICIDE.



We have this week to record the occurrence, within a short distance of Gateshead, of one of those mysterious cases of homicide which possess so strong an attraction (if we may so speak) for the human mind—cases deriving a strange and absorbing interest from the doubt and difficulty which they involve, and from the absence of all apparent motive for the secret and violent destruction of life.

The victim, in the present instance, is Thomas Robson, aged 26, an unmarried man, who was employed as brakesman (or engineman) at the Team (or Ravensworth) colliery, the property of W. W. Burdon and Company, which stands on the east side of the turnpike-road from Newcastle to Durham, between the third and fourth milestones, in the parish of Lamesley, and about three quarters of a mile south from Gateshead Low Fell. The deceased was a merry, good-natured man, "fond of his glass," and a general favourite among his companions. On Saturday, Aug. 10—the day of his death—he had been at a colliery-wedding, and got "the worse of liquor."

On the evening of the same day, James Jefferson, aged 18, an apprentice to the blacksmith at the colliery, (and formerly clerk in the office of Mr. G. J. Kenmir, solicitor, Gateshead,) was at High Eighton, (a farm house so called,) and played at quoits with William Yarrow, a labourer on the farm. Mr. John Fleck, a middle-aged man, nephew of Mrs. Metcalf, of High Eighton, and manager of her farm, was present at the time; and at 9 o'clock, when the quoit-playing was ended, he said to his man Yarrow that he would meet him in "the potato-field" at midnight, and they would watch the potatoes together. Jefferson, on hearing them make this arrangement, offered to make one of the party, and Fleck and Yarrow expressed their assent.

In the potato-field there were four rows belonging to a pitman named Richardson, employed at the Team colliery, who had agreed with Mrs. Metcalf for the use of part of her field. Four or five weeks ago, some of his potatoes had been stolen and others had been destroyed. Mrs. Metcalf's potatoes were not touched, the only rows meddled with by the plunderers being the pitman's; but similar depredations had also been committed in other fields in the district; and Fleck had therefore watched his aunt's potato-field on the previous Thursday night (August 8).

Yarrow and Jefferson, on parting from Fleck at High Eighton, proceeded to Gardener's, the Sun public house, Gateshead Low Fell, and sat drinking there until about half-past 11—when they started out for the Team colliery, and arrived at the pit a little before 12 o'clock. Yarrow was so tipsy that he lay down in the engine-house and fell asleep. Robson, who was at the pit, offered to go with Jefferson to meet Fleck, and they proceeded along the waggonway to the gate leading into the turnpike-road, and near to the stile which leads into the potato-field. It was at this spot that Jefferson expected to meet Fleck, but he was not there. Jefferson and Robson (who were both more or less tipsy) entered the potato-field, and walked along the path, talking and laughing, towards the head of the field.

Digitized by Google

Then (according to Jefferson's story) they crossed over among the potatoes, to a gap indicated in our plan of the fields—(a plan which, although far from strictly accurate, is sufficiently so to convey a fair idea of the relative situations of the roads and places mentioned in our narrative). From the gap just mentioned, we may here state, there is a track through the standing corn to the footpath leading up to High Eighton. Jefferson and Robson passed along the potato-field, between the potatoes and the fence; and at a short distance beyond the gap, Robson saw a man sitting on the bank, under the hedge, and said, "Hollo!" The man ordered them off, but Robson went nearer to him, and looked into his face. The man then lifted a gun or a pistol, and fired. The muzzle must have been close against the body of Robson, for the charge was not scattered. It made but a small wound, although a very fatal one—the heart being shattered to pieces. Robson staggered about twelve yards from the place where he was shot, marking the track with his blood; and at the spot where he fell, there was a large pool on the ground. Jefferson, on hearing the shot, ran forward about thirty yards, and fell under the hedge, near to the potatoes belonging to Richardson, (who, by the way, is the son of the parish-clerk of Lamesley). Jefferson lay upon the ground nearly two hours, in a state of bewilderment. Such is the statement which he himself gives of the mysterious affair.

Fleck states that he was at the house of Mr. Jacob Gowland, in Wrekenton, until nearly midnight. He was quite sober—not only on his own showing, but on that of other persons. He proceeded in the direction of the potato-field, to keep his appointment with Yarrow and Jefferson; and when near to the house of his aunt, he heard the report of a pistol or a gun—he thought the former. He passed through the corn-field and the potato-field, and walked along the waggonway to the pit. He there met with Yarrow and others—none of whom could say where Robson and Jefferson were, but it was thought that they had gone to a public-house, at a short distance from the colliery. After sitting about an hour and a half in the engine-house, Fleck and Yarrow left the colliery, and went to the potato-field. They walked along the path to Mrs. Metcalf's — and then down the north side of the corn-field. Fleck got into the potato-field at the north-east corner (pointed out in the plan), and proceeded along the high (or east) end of the field—while Yarrow went round by the low (or west) end, adjoining the turnpike-road. Fleck went in among the potatoes, and gathered a few, intending to give them to Yarrow, to cook at the colliery-fire. Jefferson states that he saw Fleck enter the field, and pull the potatoes. When Fleck approached Jefferson, the latter cried "Hollo!" and Fleck, going up to him as he lay on the ground, told him he was a pretty watchman, to lie still while he saw a man pocketing the potatoes! Jefferson rose up, and they proceeded along the field until they came to the body of Robson. Fleck said, "What's that?" Jefferson—who states that the fatal occurrence of the night was not at that moment present to his mind—suggested that it might be a cat. But Fleck replied that it was Robson asleep, and began to poke him with his stick. Jefferson then recovered his memory, and said that Robson was shot. Fleck shouted to Yarrow—who came to the spot; and the body was removed to the barn at the colliery.

Such is a brief outline of the facts, as given in evidence by Jefferson and Fleck. The details will be found in our report of the examinations before the coroner. We leave the curious reader to compare the statements of the several witnesses.

The tragedy, on becoming generally known, (and the news, we need not say, spread far and wide in a very short space of time,) produced intense excitement. The public mind, as usual, was eager to pierce the mystery in which the homicide was shrouded; and various conjectures were hazarded—most of them founded on misrepresentations and misunderstandings of the facts. One explanation was, that Richardson the pitman, being what is called a "blackleg," some unionist had intended to shoot him, and shot Robson in mistake; but there is not the slightest evidence that can in any way justify such a suspicion; and we only notice it to express our conviction of its utter want of foundation.

On Sunday, hundreds of persons visited the potato-field; and on Monday, when we inspected the ground to prepare our plan, the spot was pointed out to us on which "the man" was seen sitting at midnight; but the very distinct mark upon the grass was of little value as a piece of evidence, for scores of visitors had squatted down upon the spot, one by one, just to say that they had done so. We were also told of the print of a "large foot," which had been traced on the ground at the head of the potato-field:—another circumstance devoid of value in this inquiry—Robson and Jefferson, and Fleck and Yarrow, (to say nothing of other persons,) having walked to and fro at the place in question.

And now, having made these preliminary statements and remarks, we proceed to report the evidence on

THE CORONER'S INQUEST.

On Monday forenoon, Aug. 12, shortly after 10 o'clock, J. M. Favell, Esq., coroner for Chester ward, swore-in a jury at the colliery-office, consisting of—

Mr. Thomas Greene, Foreman.

Mr. William Patterson.	Mr. William Miller.
Mr. John Thirlwell.	Mr. John Salkeld.
Mr. Thomas Robson.	Mr. William Hunter.
Mr. Samuel Thompson.	Mr. Peter Elliott.
Mr. William Simpson.	Mr. James Smith.
Mr. Thomas Ferguson.	Mr. J. R. Wilson.
Mr. Henry Marsh.	Mr. William Yarrow.

There were also present several other gentlemen, including Major Wemyss, Chief Constable of the Durham Rural Police, Mr. W. Barkus, sen., and Mr. W. Barkus, jun., the viewer of the colliery.

The following witnesses were examined; but Mr. Hood, surgeon, who (for convenience' sake) was called first, we have placed nearly at the end, that the events of the night may be narrated more nearly in the order of their occurrence.

James Jefferson deposed:—I live at Chowdean, and am an apprentice with my father, who is blacksmith at the Team colliery. On Saturday night, about 12 o'clock, I came to the engine-house at the pit, from the Sun public house, with William Yarrow and Matthew Brown. Yarrow lay down on a box in the engine-house: he was tipsy. Brown sat down. I went into the fire-box to the deceased, Thomas Robson, and told him I was going to John Fleck, to let him know that Yarrow was in the engine-house. He said, "Stop till I get my stick, and I'll go along with you." I had heard Fleck say to Yarrow, at 7 o'clock, that he would meet him at the potato-field between 11 and 12 o'clock, to watch the potatoes until daybreak. Yarrow replied that he would be there. Deceased and I went along the waggon-way to the stile at the corner of the field. I said, while standing on the turnpike road, I doubted Fleck had not come to the field, for that was the spot on which he had promised to meet Yarrow. Deceased answered, "Never mind: we will go up the field-side." We crossed over the stile, and walked along the footpath of the potato-field. Deceased, I think, walked first. I stopped near the top, and said, "It is no use going further: I'm certain he's not here, or we would have seen him before this." We had been joking and laughing all the way up the path: any person at the top of the field might hear us, it was so still a night. Deceased, I think, had had some drink, but he could walk very well, and knew what he was doing. We heard no person in the field as we went up. When I wished to go back, deceased said we might as well walk round the field, as poor Tom Richardson's potatoes were at the other end. We then turned off the path, and crossed over aslant the drills. I was walking first. When we reached the head of the field, where there is a gap in the hedge for a cart to go through, he was close to me. We walked along by the side of the potatoes. Deceased stopped and cried, "Hollo!" I also stopped, and looked round. I was about three yards before the deceased. A man spoke out of the hedge, saying "Had-away! had-away!" and grumbled something else—I cannot exactly say what. I think he said, "There's plenty here without you;" or "There's some one here without you." It was something to that effect. I did not know the voice. We were both standing in front of the man. Deceased went about two steps nearer to him. The man immediately fired, without rising. I did not hear him cock the gun: I think he could not have had time—it was all done so quickly. I ran off directly, along the side of the potatoes, for about thirty yards, and then fell upon the ground, under the fence. I lay there until 2 o'clock. Deceased never spoke to the man, after crying "Hollo." He had a stick, but did not lift it to the man. He merely advanced as if to see who the man was. I neither saw Robson fall nor the man rise. I ran off immediately. I think the man had a hat on. I also think he wore a square-

Digitized by Google

lapped coat, for one of his coat-laps was lying across his thigh. It was a dark coat. His trousers were fustian. I saw him lift either one or both hands, but cannot say whether he had a gun or a pistol. I can swear he lifted the piece to his shoulder. Deceased would not be more than two yards distant from the man. The man just gave a "fidge" up — lifted his right hand—and fired. Deceased was scarcely the length of a gun from the man. It might be a gun that was fired, but I rather think it was a pistol—it was done so quickly. The shot was fired the moment the deceased said "Hollo." Heard a sound as if of blood gushing, and the deceased gave two groans. I also heard a rustling as of some one running away. I also fancied I heard a sort of whispering, before the blood began to gush, but there was only one voice. They seemed to be making away. I thought there were two persons, but I could only distinguish one voice. I heard some one run, but cannot say whether it was in the potatoes or the wheat. I was not so much frightened until I heard the blood gushing from the deceased. I was lying with my head to the potatoes. No one passed me. The man, I think, would be 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, but I cannot speak positively. [By a juror: The man wore a black hat. I am quite positive he said something to the effect that there were plenty watching without us. I think I should have identified the man, if I had known him before. It was not Mr. Fleck: the man was not stout enough for Fleck.] It was past 12 o'clock. We had left Gardener's public house at 20 minutes before 12. I was not more than six or eight minutes in the engine-house. I think it would be about ten minutes past 12 when the deceased was shot. I cannot tell how long I lay on the ground, for as soon as I heard the blood gushing a sort of chill came over me, and I can recollect little else. I think I heard a whistle. I heard the clock at Ravensworth castle strike two; and about that time Fleck came among the potatoes. He came in at the north end of the field. He told me he had whistled on the turnpike. He pulled up some potatoes as he came along, and put them into his pocket. He advanced towards me; and when he was within seven or eight yards of where I lay, I said, "Hollo!" He replied, "You are a bonny man to be watching potatoes, and see a man pulling them up, while you are lying in the hedge." I asked, "Can you tell me where Whit. Wilson [a constable] is?" Fleck said he had never seen him. I thought I had heard him talking. I did not exactly know what I was saying, as I had heard no one speaking. As we walked along by the hedge-side, towards the footpath, Fleck said, "What is this here?" I said, "I believe it's a cat." Fleck said, "No, it's some potato-stealer, pretending to be asleep." He then went close up to Robson, and poked him in the side with his stick, saying, "Get up." I said, "It's Thomas Robson: he's shot." Fleck immediately shouted for Yarrow, who was at the bottom of the field, and told him to go and rouse up some of the people, for a bonny job had happened—Robson was shot. Yarrow did not hear what was said; so Fleck sent me down to him with the message. Yarrow told me to go and give the alarm, and he would go to Fleck. I proceeded to the engine-house, and got Stephenson to go with me, and rouse Scott and others to assist us. We met Fleck and Yarrow carrying the body, and the former told us that some one must go for a doctor, for they felt Robson breathing. Four persons took the body by the arms and legs, and a fifth placed a stick under the back; and in this manner they carried it to the pit—where they placed it on a plank, and then carried it to the barn. Fleck wore a dark shooting coat when he came to me in the field: it comes down to about his knees. I recollect perfectly seeing a cat as I lay upon the ground, but I was afraid to rise. When Fleck asked me what it was that was lying by the hedge, I had not the deceased in my mind. I am quite satisfied Fleck was not the man who shot the deceased. Had it been him, I should certainly have known him. I cannot swear either way, but I am almost sure Fleck was not the man. [By a juror: I am certain I was sober. I knew Fleck as soon as he came into the field, and am positive I saw him putting potatoes into his pocket.]

William Yarrow, jun.: I am servant to Mrs. Metcalf, of High Eighton. I was playing at quoits there, on Saturday night, till about half-past 8 o'clock, and went to my father's till 9. I then went to Gardener's public-house—where I remained until half-past 11. About 9 o'clock, Fleck asked me if I was going to the Fell, and said he would meet me at the potato-field at 12, to watch the potatoes. We had not watched them before, except on the Thursday night. Fleck wore a dark velvet shooting-coat, corded trousers, and a Scotch cap. This was at 9 o'clock. Jefferson was there, and said he would go with me to watch. William Arthur was also present. On the Thursday night, when we were watching, we had no fire-arms. We left Gardener's public-house at half-past 11 o'clock. Five of us had drunk about eight pints of ale. I was a little tipsy. On reaching the Betty pit I lay down in the engine-house and fell asleep. When I awoke Brown was gone. John Humble told me that Jefferson and the deceased had gone to meet Fleck, and to watch the potatoes. I went along the waggon-way, and met Fleck at the low corner of the potato-field. He was coming towards the pit, and said, "Hollo, Bill." I answered him. He said it was no use going just then, as he had come down the field: he would go to the engine-house. He asked me if I had heard a shot. I said that I had not. He said that as he was coming past his aunt's house he heard a shot fired. We went to the engine-house, and sat there about an hour and a half. Humble, a special-constable, was with us; and also Stephenson. We thought that Jefferson and the deceased must have gone down to the public house. At about 2 o'clock, Fleck and I went to the potato-field. We walked along the footpath, and went as far as Mrs. Metcalf's, and along a lane to the north of the house, and down again to the potato-field. Fleck said he would go along the high end of the field, and I might go along the low end: we would then be sure to see all over the field. When I had reached the low corner, Fleck shouted to me that Robson was shot. I ran up, and met Jefferson half-way. He seemed frightened. I ran on, and he went off to give the alarm. I found the deceased lying on his back, and Fleck stooping down, holding his head. Fleck placed my hand upon the breast of the deceased. I felt a great deal of blood. We carried him half-way down the field, and then met several others coming, who carried him to the barn. I felt rather frightened. Fleck was then quite sober. He had not, to my knowledge, tasted drink the whole day. When we were lifting the deceased, Fleck thought he breathed. The body was quite stiff.—[One of the jurors asked a question or two implying his surprise that the constable and his companions should have sat so long in the engine-house after the report of a gun had been heard, without making any effort to discover whence it proceeded; but the circumstance was stated to be so common, through the practice of shooting rabbits by night, as to excite little attention.]

John Fleck: I manage the farm of my aunt, Mrs. Metcalf, of High Eighton. On Thursday night, for the first time, I watched our potatoes. There had been some potato-robbing in the district. Richardson, of the "Coal House," had four rows of potatoes in our field. Some of them were stolen, and others destroyed, about a month ago. Yarrow and Jefferson left my aunt's at about 9 o'clock on Saturday night, and were to meet me at 12 in the potato-field. Yarrow and I walked in the direction of Gateshead Fell. I left him, and went to Mr. Gowland's at Wrekenton. I remained there till nearly 12 o'clock. The family were all up. I had a glass of black beer—nothing more. On leaving Mr. Gowland's, I came straight to Mrs. Metcalf's. I stood awhile at the back part of the house, and listened. I left there for the potato field; and in passing the north end of the house I heard the report of a gun or a pistol. I think it was a pistol, the report not being so clear as that of a gun. I could not tell exactly from what direction the report proceeded. It was about ten minutes after I left Mr. Gowland's that I heard the report. I walked slowly down towards the potato-field, and stood and whistled of my dog awhile, which had left me. I walked along the footpath to the turnpike: I was never off the path. I looked about for Yarrow and Jefferson. I whistled, but heard nothing. I afterwards heard somebody coming from the pit. It was Yarrow. He said he had been at the pit. I could distinguish him 20 yards off. The night was cloudy at times, but just then it was bright. I asked him if he had heard a gun. He said he had not. He was half-stupid. He said he had been asleep in the "brake-house," [the engine-house]. I said everything seemed quiet—we would go into the engine-house. The constable was there. He asked if I had heard any noise on the road. I replied that I had not, and asked him if he had heard a gun. He said he had, some time before. We sat about an hour, and I then asked Yarrow to go with me to the field. He did so. Yarrow sat down on the stile,

Digitized by Google

and I laid my arms on the gate, and listened. We then walked along the footpath, and past Mrs. Metcalf's house, and round to the north-east corner of the potato-field. I wanted him to come along the top of the field, but he said it was a a long way about: he would go along the bottom, and I could go along the top, and we would then be sure to see if anything was wrong. I went in among the potatoes, and pulled a few, with the intention of giving them to Yarrow, to cook in the engine-house. I saw Jefferson lying in the hedge. He spoke as soon as I went up. "Hollo, John," he said, "is that you?" I replied, "You are a nice man to watch potatoes, and to see me so long amongst them, and not speak." He said, "I don't know: I believe I have been asleep: I have been a long time here: is Whit. Wilson with you?" I said, "No! what makes you think that? Have you seen him?" He said he thought he had heard his voice. He was very pale, and seemed much frightened. I saw something lying on the ground, and asked him what it was. He said, "Is it a white cat?" I went up to it, and said it was a man. I saw that it was the deceased, and poked him, saying, "Come! get up! you have had a good sleep: it is time you were up now." I took hold of his clothes, and was pulling him over, when Jefferson lifted up his hands, and said, "Tommy's shot!" I said, "Who by?" Jefferson replied, "I don't know: there was a man in the hedge, and Tommy cried 'Hollo,' and the man fired directly." I laid the deceased on his back. His shirt was all open, and I found with my hand that he was wounded on the breast. I said, "He is wounded, and dead too." I shouted to Yarrow to go to Low Eighton, and raise the men. Jefferson said, "Let me go." I said, "Yarrow is nearer than you." He replied, "I cannot stop here: let me go." I then told him to do so. Yarrow came up, and we waited some time; but as no one came, we lifted the body, and carried it to the footpath, and down towards the turnpike. We met others coming, and the body was carried to the barn. Jefferson was terribly frightened: he would not come near the body. I never had the least idea, while sitting in the engine-house, that the deceased was at the field. I remained at the pit until about 6 o'clock, and then went to Wrekenton; after which I went home to breakfast, and once more came to the pit. [By a juror: Shortly before I heard the report, I heard some one cry "Hollo," and I shouted "Hollo" too. The voice sounded to me as if it were below the turnpike. I had nothing with me but a stick. When I got down to the turnpike, I saw some men going along, and laughing and talking. They must have heard the shot. If they had come straight along from Newcastle, they would be about Smithy lane at the time it was fired. They would be about 300 yards off.]

Whit. Wilson, the man whom Jefferson inquired about, was questioned as to where he was on Saturday night, and satisfactorily showed that he never was out of the house from 10 o'clock until Sunday morning about 7.

Mr. George Young Hood: I am assistant to Mr. Davis, of Wrekenton, surgeon, and live in that gentleman's house. At 2 o'clock on Sunday morning, the 11th inst., I was called out of bed to a patient, and met a messenger on horseback, who stated that a man had been shot, and I must go and examine the body. I went to the Teams colliery, where the body was lying in a barn, and found a wound on the left breast sufficient to cause death. Life was quite extinct. Part of the heart protruded from the wound. The night was fine: the stars were shining, and the moon had got up. It was not very cloudy. The air was still and calm. I met a man drunk and singing, on the west side of the road, about thirty yards distant from the colliery. He shouted "Hollo!" I heard no report of fire-arms during the night. The body I saw is the same that the jury have seen to-day.

Robert Davis, Esq., surgeon, Wrekenton: I have made a *post-mortem* examination of the body. There is a wound on the left side of the breast-bone, at the junction of the fourth, fifth, and sixth ribs. It is a round hole, about an inch and a half in diameter, and blackened—apparently with gunpowder. The apex (or small point) of the heart is shattered, and protrudes from the opening. There is no wound on the back, externally; but a fulness, to a small extent, on the left side of the spine. On removing the anterior part of the chest, I found the heart and part of the lungs shattered, and a large quantity of shot resting on the spine and ribs, on the left side, in a direct line with the wound. The wound had the appearance as if the deceased had been stooping, or the person who fired had been a little above him. On removing a portion of the contents of the chest, I found several shots sticking in the covering of the spine: others had passed through between the ribs, and lodged in the muscles of the back. The ninth and tenth ribs were slightly fractured, near the junction with the spine. 187 shots, in all, were found within the body—the greater number in the back part of the chest. Several were flattened by coming in contact with the ribs. The shot were preserved, as also a small piece of paper, apparently part of the wadding. Death would be instantaneous. The woollen shirt, worn by the deceased, bears a slight appearance of being singed where it is perforated by the discharge—but very slight.

At the close of Mr. Davis's examination, the inquiry was adjourned to Friday, Aug. 16, at 10 o'clock, the coroner observing that the police expected to be prepared by that time with additional evidence.

On Tuesday, Aug. 13, the body of the deceased was buried at Lamesley, in the presence of a large concourse of spectators.

THE ADJOURNED INQUEST.

The investigation was resumed on Friday, Aug. 16, at the appointed time, and witnesses were examined as follows:—

Richard Stephenson, of the Low Fell, pitman, deposed:—The deceased left the engine-house at a quarter past 12 o'clock. He said he would go and try to see Fleck, to tell him that Yarrow was at the engine-house. Yarrow and Matthew Brown were in the engine-house at the time: no other person. John Humble, special constable, came in a few minutes afterwards, and remained five or ten minutes. He then left, and did not return. This was half-an-hour after the deceased went out. I think Matthew Brown had gone home then. The next person who came in was Fleck. He came in with Yarrow, and asked "where Tom was," meaning the deceased. Yarrow did not speak. Yarrow had been a few times at the door, and at the fire-hole, but had never been away from the colliery. The fire-hole is about 30 yards from the engine. The whole three (Fleck, Humble, and Yarrow,) went out within about five minutes. I observed nothing particular in their manner. Fleck never came into the engine-house. I afterwards heard him talking at the door. I think it was Yarrow he was talking to. Yarrow was very tipsy. Fleck, I think, was sober. Humble was sober. Brown lives at Low Eighton. Fleck left an hour and a half before the body was brought to the pit, and did not return until the body came. Yarrow was never out of my sight more than about a minute or so, until he returned with Fleck. Humble told Yarrow to go and watch the potatoes, or he would tell Fleck when he saw him. Yarrow replied, "Go and tell him now: he is in the fire-hole." When I stated that no one had gone out before Fleck came in, I meant that no one had left the premises. About five minutes after deceased left, Humble looked at his watch, and it was twenty minutes past 12. [Humble's watch was by Newcastle time.] [By a juror: About half an hour after Humble looked at his watch, Fleck came in with Yarrow and Humble.] I cannot say whether Fleck wore a hat or a cap. He had on a dark square-lapped coat. I am not sure about the colour. I never heard the shot fired; nor did I hear Fleck, or any of them, talk of having heard a shot. The first of my hearing of a shot was when Jefferson came in for assistance. Matthew Brown was dressed in a fustian jacket and cap. I cannot say how Humble was dressed. Yarrow was dressed in a fustian jacket and trousers, and, I believe, a cap. I never saw any of the party with fire-arms. Yarrow had a stick with a dagger in it. The dagger was about two feet long. I was not frequently at the pit. I met deceased about 5½ o'clock in the afternoon, who asked me to go to the engine-house. Deceased left about 7, and returned about 9. I attended the engine all that time. He had been at the Coach and Horses public-house. [By a juror: When Jefferson came in, he asked "where Jack was," meaning Humble. I said I did not know: he had left some time. Jefferson said, "Come away directly: Robson's shot in the potato-field."] Deceased, when he came from the public-house, brought four quarts of ale to the engine-house in a large stone bottle. I think none of the men were drunk but Yarrow.

John Humble, of Low Eighton, constable: I never heard a shot fired. I heard nothing of a shot being fired, until after the body was found. I went to my own house about ten minutes past 12, to get my supper. Previous to that I had been about the stack-yard. I left my house again in about ten minutes. Arthur, another constable, came into the house, and got a drink

Digitized by Google

of water, and left immediately afterwards. I heard a noise at the brake-house. Arthur and I went along to the brake-house, and found Yarrow asleep on the seat, and Brown and Stephenson sitting together talking. I went in, and left Arthur at the fire-hole, stirring up the fire. I saw no one else about. I inquired for the deceased. Stephenson said he had gone with Jefferson to the potato-field. It was just half-past 12 when I went into the brake-house. Stephenson said Robson and Jefferson had just gone to the field. Yarrow left the engine-house about five minutes after I went in, but was not absent more than five minutes. Yarrow wanted to go with me. I told him to go and mind his own business. He was then tipsy. He went out. I followed, and met Fleck close to the brake-house, upon the boiler-wall, about five yards from the brake-house door. I said to Fleck it was a fine night, and he said it was. He then said he would go in and have his pipe. He was then smoking. I suppose he had lighted it in the fire-hole. Yarrow went in with him, and I went to the stack-garth, and remained there, and at the far pit, about two hours; when I heard Fleck saying, "Is there no one coming?" He was then seeking assistance to carry the body. I think it would then be after 2 o'clock. Fleck had on a brown velvet shooting-coat and a Glengarry bonnet. Arthur and I had been together nearly the whole of the time. I was not in the house more than ten minutes. I think it was about a quarter to one when I first saw Fleck. I went to the potato-field next morning, and saw footsteps, but did not trace any of them. There had been a wedding that morning, and guns were fired.

Thomas Arthur, constable: I live at Lamesley. I have been watching at the colliery since before the pitmen's "strike." I have frequently heard shots fired during the night. I went on duty on Saturday at about 9 o'clock at night. I was in the engine-house at about 10. The deceased was there. I went into the stackyard a little after 12. I heard a gun fired. This would be about ten minutes past 12. I looked at my watch about ten minutes afterwards, and it was then twenty minutes past 12. My watch was ten minutes fast. Humble came at this time. I did not mention the shot. I went to the fire-hole, and threw coals on the fire. About three minutes after Brown went out, Yarrow came in, tipsy. This was the first time I had seen him. He went back towards the engine-house. John Fleck came in about two minutes afterwards, walking sharp. He said, "Did thou hear a gun gan off, Tom?" I said, "No," thinking he meant another gun, fired at that moment. He said, "Dear me, I came from Gowland's about 12 o'clock; and when passing our own place I heard a gun fired somewhere down here, and thought you would all have heard it." I said I had heard one, but it was some time ago. He asked, "Hest thou seen Bill Yarrow, our servant-lad?" I said, "Have you not met him? He's just gone out." Fleck said, "He had to meet me, to watch the potatoes to-night." He then went towards the engine-house. I went to the stack-yard, and saw neither of them afterwards until the body was found. [By a juror: I think three quarters of an hour, at least, elapsed between the time I heard the shot and saw Fleck. After I got to the stack-yard, John Humble came to me, and we were together until the body was found, an hour afterwards. Fleck came and alarmed us, saying, "Yonder's Tommy Robson lying shot at the head of our potato-field." I was in the field between 6 and 7 o'clock on Sunday morning, and saw footmarks. I thought one had gone up the waggon-way, and another into the bean-field. Fleck said it was very well they had neither gun nor pistol in the house, or folks might have blamed him.

Edward Heppell, of Birtley, enginewright: At 20 minutes past 12 o'clock in the night in question, I looked at my watch. I was then beside Mr. Wilkins's, nearly a quarter of a mile from the potato-field, and half-way between Harley Green lane-end and the Smithy (or Lamesley) lane-end. John Harkness was with me. I heard a gun fired, and I saw the flash. It appeared to be at the high-part of the field, where the body was found. I saw only the one flash. I heard no one call out, neither before nor after the shot. I thought it was some one watching potatoes, and firing to scare people away. All was quiet at the time. I heard no whistling. It was a fine sort of night. I could have recognized any person I was acquainted with, at about eight yards' distance, and could have distinguished their dress.

John Harkness gave corroborative testimony.

Matthew Brown: I went to the engine-house at half past 11 o'clock or 12. I came from the Low Fell with Jefferson and Yarrow. I left the colliery at about half-past 12. Yarrow was tipsy

Jefferson reëxamined: Deceased was not a yard from the man when he fired. Not more than half-a-minute elapsed between Robson's cry of "Hollo" and the firing of the shot. I try to get the subject off my mind as much as I can, as I can hardly get any sleep at nights for thinking of it. There was nothing in the voice of the man to lead me to know who it was. I think the deceased fell about eight or ten yards from the spot on which he was shot. I ran 28 yards before I fell. I am certain some person whispered. I saw the flash from the muzzle of the gun, and also from the breech. I am of opinion it was flint and steel; and from the nearness of the two flashes, I think the piece was a pistol. The flash threw a light upon the man, but I could not get a look at his face. To the best of my knowledge I did not see the man's face at the time, nor have I ever seen it since. He had a black hat on. I think his coat was not velvet, but made of rough cloth. His trousers were light—and I think fustian. I swear positively I have kept nothing back, and that I never left the spot at which I fell, until Fleck came up to me. [By a juror: I am not liable to fits. I was sensible before Fleck came up. It was within a few minutes of the time the clock struck two that he came into the field. I was frightened at the thought of the deceased being shot so near to me.] I knew Fleck when he came up. I spoke first. He had left the potatoes then. He poked them up with his stick, and put them into his pocket. I did not mention to Fleck about the deceased being shot, because I was frightened. When Fleck saw the deceased, he said it was a potato-stealer making as if he were asleep. I was behind Fleck at the time. I never recollected deceased being shot, until Fleck poked him with the stick. When I saw Fleck come into the field, I thought it was a potato-stealer, and that I would be served the same way as the deceased. I was not positive about the deceased being shot. [The witness gave a very contradictory statement as to his recollection of the occurrences at this time. At one time he recollected perfectly about being frightened when Fleck came into the field that he would be "served the same as Robson." Afterwards he had no recollection of the shooting of the deceased. Fleck, he said, turned the dead body over, but never asked who had shot him. He put his hand down, and said the deceased was shot right through the breast.] [A juror: Why did you not tell Fleck about Robson's being shot before you came to the body?] Because it only came into my mind at that moment. Fleck never asked me how the deceased was shot, or who shot him. If Fleck had not come, I think I should have lain till the morning. I sometimes thought that perhaps the deceased had run away. Deceased was lying on his face, and Fleck turned him over. He was lying with his head to the north. Deceased said, as we were going up the field, he wished he had brought his pistol with him, to fire off amongst the potatoes. No one has given me any instruction as to what I should say. My father and brother have both charged me to speak the truth. I have no pistol. I had one, but I gave it to William Yarrow. Yarrow gave it to my brother to mend, several months ago. It has since been lost.

Mrs. Barbara Gowland, of Wrekenton: Mr. Fleck came to our house on Saturday night, between 9 and 10 o'clock. He had a glass of black beer with my husband, and said it was all he had had that day. He was perfectly sober. The clock struck 12 before he left, or just about the time of his leaving. He said he was going to watch the potatoes with Yarrow, and they had to meet at half-past 12. He lifted a stick from a rail on the wall, and said he would take it with him. No mention was made of guns or pistols.

John Gowland, son of the preceding witness: Mr. Fleck was at our house on Saturday night. He and my sister Jane were in the front kitchen. The family took supper in a back-kitchen. Our clock, which is right by the town, struck 12 just as Fleck left. We have guns, but there was no talk about them. Fleck was the first person who came to our house on Sunday morning. He came up to my room, and said a bad job had happened—Thomas Robson had got shot in the potato-field. He didn't say how deceased had got shot.

Mrs. Thomas Neilson, midwife, who resides in a cottage adjoining the colliery-office, was called in, at the request of some one present at the inquest, but was not sworn. She stated that, early in the morning of Sunday, Fleck came to her

Digitized by Google

whilst she was standing at her door, and asked her to take charge of a pair of trousers which he had put off. He had two pairs of trousers on, and Arthur helped him to take off the pair he gave into her charge. Fleck said "they were so bloody they were a shame to be seen." The blood, he said, had run upon him from the knees of the deceased. On examining the trousers, she found them splashed with blood, as if it had squirted or burst out upon them. She could not rest while the trousers were in her house, and therefore sent them up to Fleck's. Her granddaughter had seen them since. They had been washed, and were hanging on a hedge to dry. The marks of blood were still visible.

The inquest was NOW ADJOURNED TO FRIDAY, THE 13TH OF SEPTEMBER!

[We must confess that we are far from satisfied with the conduct of the parties to this most serious investigation—and the public, too, will not feel satisfied, or we are much mistaken. If Mrs. Neilson's statement be correct—(and we have no ground for doubting it)—why was not Arthur recalled? He made no mention of the bloody trousers in his evidence—which he ought to have done, if he saw them. In justice to Mr. Fleck, the coroner and jury ought to have had the matter inquired into thoroughly, and not partially. The clothes of the deceased are still in existence:—have they been examined—and in what state are they? Many things, too, which the police ought to have done, seem to have been overlooked, if we may judge of their proceedings from the evidence. What search, for instance, have they made for fire-arms? Inspector Hall has acquired some credit as a vigilant and intelligent public officer:—is he now upholding his character in that capacity? Truly, the investigation might have been carried much further *at present*—and yet it is adjourned for NEARLY A MONTH! It might as rationally have been adjourned to doomsday.—ED. G. O.]

THE PITMEN'S STRIKE.

(From the *Gateshead Observer*, Aug. 17, 1844.)

THE coal-trade return of the week ending Aug. 10, showing the number of hewers then at work, the number of men that had left the union, and the amount of coal raised per day, in the collieries of the Tyne, Wear, and Tees, is as follows:—

	Hewers.	Seceders.	Chaldrons per day.
Tyne	2697	659	3638
Wear	2231	1197	2926
Tees	1232	652	1746
Total	6160	2508	8310
Return to Aug. 3	5528	2009	7630
Increase on the week	632	499	680

241 men, accompanied by their wives and children, arrived at the various collieries in this neighbourhood, from Wales, on Tuesday last, and were placed as follows:—At Hetton, 95; Lambton, 52; Whitwell, 32; Crow Trees, 32; and Kelloe, 30. The men are all picked as the very best colliers in the county of Flint, and have been earning from 7s. to 14s. per week. Some of them have had no wages in money for several years, but have been paid wholly in goods, from truck shops; and many have gone about the country selling their provisions, at a great sacrifice, in order to raise money. The agents found no difficulty in procuring the very best men, since the first batch arrived at Seghill colliery, and had reported to friends at home the earnings they had.

The men at Sherburn Hill, who had received notice to quit on Wednesday last, quietly returned to their work, or, at least, all that would be received. At Haswell, Shincliffe, and (on Thursday) at Whitwell, they went-in in numbers, and offered to go to work immediately. The best conducted men were at once received; but the idle and disorderlies were in all cases refused. We (*Durham Chronicle*) have received similar gratifying intelligence from Thornley and several other quarters.

The carts of the Marquis of Londonderry were busily engaged on Monday and Tuesday, in removing the ejected families of the pitmen, of Pensher and neighbourhood, back to their old dwellings—as ninety of the men belonging to the "new pit," Shiny Row, had left the union and returned to their employment. One hundred and four men belonging to the "Dorothy Pit" left the union and returned to work on Friday. The majority of the men belonging the Lumley colliery have also seceded from the union. Waldridge pit is filling up rapidly with the old hands, and a strong disposition to return to work seems to be manifested by the Edmonsley pitmen.—*Newcastle Advertiser.*

The Old Etherley pitmen "turned in" on Wednesday, and the pit is now in full work.

The Lambton collieries, we understand, are also getting into full work; and we hear similar reports from various quarters.

The Miners' Association held a numerous meeting on Newcastle moor on Tuesday, (Mr. Charles Revely in the chair). James Hardy moved the following resolution:—

"That after standing eighteen weeks, and seeing the base and unmanly conduct of our masters, who have by promises, threats, and intimidation, succeeded in getting a few men to work to suit their present purposes, and thereby entailing misery on the present and future generation—to prevent the direful calamity this meeting therefore calls upon all such as have been deluded by the false promises of the masters, to join the ranks of the Miners' Association."

Seconded by William Mitchell, supported by Joseph Fawcett, and carried.—William Bell, of Percy Main, moved the following resolution:—

"That, in the opinion of the meeting, the miners of this district ought to be very careful and forewarned against reports emanating from parties in the garb of ministers of the Gospel, persuading the men to go to work by painting our position in false colours. This meeting therefore pledges itself not to believe any report unless it be on the stamp of authority from our association."

This resolution, also, was carried.—The proceedings were then brought to an abrupt close, the weather being unfavourable for further business.

On Thursday evening, a meeting of working men and unemployed colliers was held in the lecture-room, Nelson-street, Newcastle, when resolutions were unanimously passed in condemnation of the conduct of the colliery-owners and agents, and in justification of the strike.

BIRTH OF A PRINCE.

THE Queen having given birth to a Prince on Tuesday, August 6, at Windsor castle, the church-bells in this district rang merry peals on Wednesday. The flag was hoisted at the castle in Newcastle on the receipt of the intelligence, and the guns were fired at noon.——Her Majesty, within three hours before the birth of the little stranger, attached her signature to seven sheets of parchment, empowering commissioners to give the royal assent to several bills.——It has been taken for granted that the young Prince will be Duke of York, but the Queen may confer upon him whatever title she pleases.

FUNERAL OF MR. RALPH LAMBTON.—The remains of this justly popular and venerated gentleman were interred at Chester-le-Street, on Tuesday, Aug 6. The funeral procession moved off from Murton House at half-past 10 o'clock; and was met by the tenantry of the Lambton estates at the park-wall, and accompanied by them from thence to the place of interment. The chief-mourners were the nephew of the deceased, Mr. W. H. Lambton, and his son, Mr. Henry Lambton; Mr. Hedworth Lambton being prevented from attending the obsequies of his uncle by his absence abroad. Though it was understood that the funeral was to be private, upwards of thirty carriages of the neighbouring gentry formed part of the procession; and the concourse of spectators at Chester-le-Street was very considerable. The shops were closed on the occasion; and every person seemed most deeply sensible of the loss which the neighbourhood had sustained in the removal of one of its most honoured inhabitants. The procession arrived at the church a little before 12; and the service having been performed by the Rev. E. S. Thurlow, (one of Mr. Lambton's oldest and most attached friends, and who had come down from Norwich for the purpose, in compliance with the wishes of the deceased,) the coffin was removed to the burial-vault of the Lambton family, where it was placed in the niche below that in which the remains of the late Earl of Durham are deposited. It is understood that the bulk of the deceased's large fortune will descend to Mr. W. H. Lambton; and we are happy to hear—what could hardly be ever doubted—that he has provided very liberally for his principal domestics, whose attention to him, during the severe sufferings which clouded the latter years of his existence, had been most devoted and exemplary.—We had nearly omitted to state, that the pall-bearers at the funeral were Sir M. W. Ridley, Bart., R. E. D. Shafto, Esq., Colonel Tower, W. Williamson, Esq., Robert S. Surtees, Esq., (Hamsterley), John Gregson, Esq., Edward Johnson, Esq., and Thomas Fenwick, Esq.—*Durham Chronicle.*

Digitized by Google

MOURNFUL ACCIDENTS IN GATESHEAD.

Two fatal gig-accidents have occurred in this borough within the last few days: two young women, returning from scenes of innocent enjoyment, have been violently hurried into Eternity, and their families plunged into grief and lamentation.

The first of these calamities occurred on the 16th Aug., as mentioned in our paper of the 17th. The sufferer, Miss Mary Ann Henderson, aged 18, as we then stated, was insensible from the injuries she received; and within a short time of our hour of publication, she expired at the inn to which she had been conveyed.

On Saturday afternoon, an inquest was held by J. M. Favell, Esq., at the house of Mr. P. J. Main, the Queen's Head, High-street, Gateshead, where the body was lying.

James Henderson, aged 17, brother of the deceased, was brought into the room for examination, and placed upon a table. His knee being hurt, he could neither walk, nor sit upon a chair. The poor youth was deeply affected, and wept while he gave his evidence. He deposed that he was returning from the regatta in a gig or dog-cart, on the previous (Friday) evening. Mr. Hunter, the solicitor, was driving, and witness sat beside him. Deceased and Miss Main sat behind, with their backs to Mr. Hunter and witness. On entering Gateshead, and before they came to the new railway-station, the pony ran off in coming down a bank. Mr. Hunter pulled in as hard as he could, and witness caught hold of the reins. Mr. Hunter told him to let go. The gig went over, and they were all thrown out upon the road. Deceased fell on the right side of her head. She was stunned, and insensible. Miss Main was also hurt. Mr. Hunter was perfectly sober. He had never flogged the horse, nor driven it otherwise than steadily. Witness's parents lived in Northumberland-street, Marylebone, London. His father was a cabinet-maker. Deceased and he were on a visit at Mr. Fordyce's, the *Tyne Mercury* office, in Grey-street, Newcastle.

Miss Main also gave evidence, but was able to throw no additional light on the accident. The pony, she said, belonged to her father, and the dog-cart to her brother-in-law, Mr. Stobbs, the grocer. The deceased caught hold of her when the horse quickened its pace.

Mrs. Telford, who keeps a shop next door to the Mulgrave Arms, above Mulgrave-terrace, deposed that she saw the ladies and gentlemen fly out of the gig, in the middle of the turnpike. The gig continued to go on. The boy and the ladies were brought to her shop, and medical assistance sent for. Mr. Beggs came first. Mr. Brady and Mr. Dixon came afterwards. Witness thought one of the young ladies was dead. She was quite insensible. The other was insensible awhile, but soon came round. The young man was sensible all the time, and cried out about his sister.

Mr. Beggs, assistant to Mr. Bennett, surgeon, Gateshead, deposed that he was called-in, and found the deceased at the shop already named, insensible and convulsed. She was removed to Mr. Main's in a hackney-coach. Witness accompanied her. She was put to bed. On examination, a contusion was found upon the right temple, and also a slight one on the right cheek. These were the only marks of violence that were discovered. The jaws were locked, and so continued until within a short time of death. Sir John Fife, Mr. Brady, Mr. Dixon, and witness were in attendance, and everything was done that could possibly afford relief. Sir John Fife made an incision over the contusion on the temple, to ascertain if there was any fracture. Blood flowed freely; and, for a few minutes afterwards, the convulsions were less violent. Deceased died at about half-past 9 o'clock in the morning. She was never sensible. Her symptoms indicated fracture, with compression on the brain; and, in witness's opinion, this was the cause of death. There might be infusion of blood on the brain, from the rupture of a vessel.

Mr. Hunter, of Bridge-street, Gateshead, solicitor, was called in, and stated (without being sworn), that the pony was very steady. It was not disturbed by the firing of guns at the regatta, nor by the noise of the railway-trains. In coming down the bank, at the head of the Half-Moon-lane, the weight behind made it go faster. It broke out of a trot into a canter. The youth seemed timid, and he caught hold of one of the reins. The pony went to the side of the road; and when it was pulled round, out of the gutter, the vehicle went over. Witness had full command over the pony when the rein was seized. The shaft was broken by the accident. The deceased was sitting behind witness, and Miss Main behind Master Henderson.

Mrs. Eleanor Ferguson, neighbour to Mrs. Telford, deposed that she saw the gig before the accident. It was coming sharpish down the hill, and the pony seemed to be too small for the weight. Some one—not the driver—caught hold of the reins, and the horse turned round to the east side of the road, next to Mrs. Telford's. It was then pulled back towards the other side, and the west wheel got into a hole in the road. The east wheel went up, and the gig "whommeled" over upon the ladies and gentlemen. The deceased was thrown the farthest. The lad received a kick from the pony as it was rising; and when it got up, it went off again.

The jury having consulted together two or three minutes, Mr. Robert Lister, the foreman, gave in a verdict of "Accidental Death." The coroner, at their request, had accompanied them to the scene of the accident, that they might inspect the road; and as they made no allusion to it in their verdict, we presume they were satisfied with the condition in which it was found. The road, indeed, is in a very good state.

On Tuesday, the remains of the deceased were interred in the churchyard of St. Mary's, Gateshead, her sorrowing father and friends following the body to the grave, at an hour when (according to her arrangements) she was to have rejoined the family-circle in London.

The parents of the deceased are natives of the North of England, and she had many friends and acquaintances in this district. A few years ago, she was on a long visit to her grandmother, an old and honoured servant of the Ravensworths, on whose estate she then resided.

The second fatal accident occurred in the night of Monday, Aug. 19, at about 10½ o'clock. Miss Barbara Sisson, daughter of Mr. John Sisson, High-street, Gateshead, butcher, was returning from her sister's marriage at Pelton, accompanied by her lover, Mr. Joseph Miller, of the Low Fell, butcher, to whom she was about to be married. The horse took fright in passing Messrs. l'Anson & Finney's nurseries, and galloped furiously along the Back-lane, until it came into collision with a lamp-post at the corner of Charles-street and John's-place, High West-street. The post and the pavement were displaced by the shock, and Mr. Miller and Miss Sisson were thrown with violence to the ground. The former escaped almost uninjured:—not so his companion: her head was fractured under the ear, and, when lifted up, she was bleeding from the nose, ears, and eyes. With as little delay as possible she was removed to the house of her father, where she died during the night, from concussion of the brain.

An inquest was held on Tuesday, by Mr. Favell, at the Nag's Head inn, and a verdict of "Accidental Death" returned. No blame was attributed to Mr. Miller.

The road is in excellent condition, but the lamp was not lighted. Our municipal authorities, if we were to censure them for the omission, would most probably reply, "Our poverty, and not our will, consents."

PUBLIC MEETING IN GATESHEAD.

THE OVERTHROW OF THE WALLS ON THE WINDMILL-HILLS.

On Wednesday, Aug. 21, a public meeting took place in the townhall, Oakwellgate, Gateshead, "to take into consideration the memorial recently transmitted by a Committee of the Boroughholders to Sir James Graham, praying for the reprimand or dismissal of W. H. Brockett and Robert Davis, Esqrs., two of the Magistrates of this borough, with a view of ascertaining the opinions of the inhabitants as to the manner in which those gentlemen have conducted themselves in the discharge of their magisterial duties" The meeting was originally appointed to be held at noon on Monday; but when it was represented to the Mayor (William Kenmir, Esq.), that Wednesday evening would be a more convenient time, his Worship kindly consented to the change suggested by the requisitionists.

The hall was full. Never, in our recollection, has it been so crowded; and not less than two hundred persons endeavoured to obtain admission in vain. The stairs were thronged with our townsmen, anxious to hear whatever they could.

The Mayor taking into consideration the position in which

Digitized by Google

he had been placed by the Home Secretary, had declined to preside over the proceedings of the meeting.

Mr. WIGHAM WATSON was called to the chair, and complied with the wish of the meeting amidst loud cheers. He had entered the hall, he said, without the slightest expectation of the honour that had been conferred upon him, and would only say that it should be his endeavour to discharge impartially the duties of the office.

Mr. WILLIAM COOK rose to move the first resolution—which was in the following words:—

"That the recent attempt to depreciate the public character of Messrs. Brockett and Davis, Justices of the Borough of Gateshead, by urging the Secretary of State to remove those gentlemen from the Commission of the Peace, deserves the severest condemnation of this meeting, as an act devoid alike of honour and good feeling." (Applause.)

He (Mr. Cook) regretted that circumstances should have occurred to render a meeting like the present necessary; but, that necessity having arisen, he was glad to see so numerous an assemblage of his fellow-townsmen, all anxious to declare their high opinion of Mr. William Henry Brockett and Mr. Robert Davis. (Applause.) Mr. Davis was mixed up with his colleague in the memorial transmitted to Sir James Graham. The meeting, however, he had no doubt, would come to the same conclusion as himself, that the memorialists had no feeling against Mr. Davis, but directed their hostility against Mr. Brockett, and desired alone the removal of that gentleman from the commission of the peace. (Hear, hear.) And why was it that Mr. Brockett was the object of their bitterest enmity? Simply because, from first to last, he had been the honourable and consistent advocate of the right of the people of Gateshead to the Windmill-hills. (Loud applause.) When Mr. Brockett was not himself a Boroughholder, he had asserted the rights of his fellow-townsmen; and since he had acquired a Boroughhold, he had as boldly and perseveringly maintained their title to the property. The manly part which he had taken in connection with the walls, reflected upon him the greatest credit, and deserved the gratitude of the inhabitants. What was the nature of the memorial? It was the production of a committee of the Boroughholders, and prayed the Home Secretary to reprove or dismiss Mr. Brockett and Mr. Davis, for the assistance which they had given to an "outrage" on the Borough Property—or what the Boroughholders called *their* property. (Hear, hear.) They told Sir James Graham that their title had been recognized by the legislature, and by the decision of a court of law. But the disingenuousness of the memorialists had been clearly proved by Mr. Brockett in his reply. He had shown that the court had given no decision either for against their title. But granting that the memorialists had stated the truth, how unsound and amusing was their deduction! Because their title was established and undoubted, *therefore* they had omitted to assert it in a court of justice, and punish the authors of the outrage! (Hear, hear.) If any man now present were to be deprived of his property, would he complain of the spoilers to Sir James Graham, instead of bringing them before a court of justice, for no other reason than because his title to the property had been recognized by law-givers and law-expounders, and was beyond dispute? Assuredly not. But it did not suit the purposes of the Boroughholders to bring the authors of the "outrage" before a bench of magistrates. They knew that the property was not theirs, but that of the inhabitants of Gateshead, to whom it had belonged from time immemorial; and he (Mr. Cook) knew little of his fellow-townsmen if they ever allowed the Boroughholders to lay another stone upon the hills. (Loud cheers.) There was another amusing feature of the memorial. The writers wished to make the Secretary of State believe that they had only been carrying out one of Mr. Brockett's own motions! (Loud laughter.) They would fain have persuaded Sir James that it was Mr. Brockett himself who had put them up to pilfering from the inhabitants the only piece of property which was left to them. If so, what motive could Mr. Brockett have had in leading the multitude on, as the Boroughholders alleged, to the pulling down of the walls? The assertion was as absurd as it was untrue. It was also untrue that the Boroughholders had made the road, and built the walls from public-spirited motives. Their motives were interested and private; and they had so long been suffered to go on with impunity, that they never dreamt of the interference of the public. They had got a notion that the people were as apathetic as in the year 1819, when they suffered themselves to be robbed of the common fields in the form of law. But the Boroughholders were mistaken. Their encroachments were observed with anger and indignation. Their flagrant attempt to grasp the only remaining piece of the town fields, and appropriate it to their own uses, was more than the patience of the public could bear. The inhabitants rose up against the wrong. Not merely a few idlers—not the pitmen "on strike" (laughter)—but the honest and industrious tradesmen and artisans of Gateshead. They assembled together, and they threw down the walls; and if the Boroughholders ever dared to build them up again, he trusted that the inhabitants could again cast them down to the ground. (Loud cheers.) [Mr. Cook entered into the details of the correspondence between the Council and the Boroughholders, which preceded the opening out of the footpaths over the hills; and also noticed the "proclamation," the mention of which was the signal for loud laughter. The memorialists, he said, had endeavoured to connect Mr. Brockett with the proclamation; but he (Mr. Cook) knew something of its origin (laughter), and could assure the meeting that Mr. Brockett never saw it until it was printed and published.]—The committee which superintended the opening-out of the old footpaths over the hills, was appointed by the town-council—by the corporate authorities of Gateshead—men of station and substance—and who could have no interest, but quite the contrary, in tumult and outrage. If the Boroughholders were sincere in their professions of anxiety for the peace of the town, how was it that Mr. Charles Clifford Rudd, and one of his policeman, who were implicated in the alleged riot, were not recommended to the notice of the Watch Committee, for "reproval or dismissal?" The fact was, the memorialists were actuated, not by public, but by private and personal motives. Their hostility to Mr. Brockett, which they strove in vain to conceal, oozed out at the end of the document, when they called upon Sir James to remove "the *person* or persons" referred to. They introduced a disjunctive conjunction—not caring a straw for the "reproval or dismissal" of Mr. Davis, but only anxious for the degradation of Mr. Brockett; and he was glad that the latter gentleman, in his reply to their memorial, had treated them as he had done. The meeting was aware that Sir James Graham, on the receipt of the memorial, had referred it to the Mayor of Gateshead for investigation. Witnesses had been examined, but the examination was private. He was therefore not in a condition to state the details or the result of the Mayor's inquiries. But one little fact had come out, and had been told to him as a great secret. He must consequently beg his friends to understand that he now told it to them as a great secret. (Laughter.) One of the witnesses was asked if he had seen so and so on the hills. His answer was, "No." A magistrate—an interested party—instantly rejoined, "You're a liar, sir!" ("Hear, hear," and "Shame, shame!") He would leave the meeting to judge, from this sample, what kind of an examination it was; and, without further remark, would move the resolution. (Cheers.)

Mr. JOHN BLAGBURN seconded the resolution. There were two things which he did not like. He did not like quarrelling with his neighbours, and neither did he like defending them. (Laughter.) Mr. Brockett and Mr. Davis, indeed, were men who needed no one to defend them—much less such a champion as himself: they were quite able to take care of themselves. But they were not present—they had incurred ill-will and misrepresentation through their services to the public—and the public were bound to stand forward in their support. Their opponents were rather a formidable body of men. (Laughter.) He would take the liberty of reading their names (laughter); for although much had been said of the notorious memorial, nothing had yet been said of the notorious men by whom it was signed. (Laughter.) The first was "John Lister." (Laughter.) Then came "Nicholas Andrews." (Roars of laughter, and cries of "The pantry!") The third was "George Watson;" and the next was "Thomas Glaholm," a decent sort of a man, but he had missed his mark on this occasion. (Laughter.) The other four were "John Lister, jun.," "James Honeyman," "Forster Walker," and "William Wales." Three of these men—Messrs. Walker, Glaholm, and Watson—took part in a public meeting, a dozen years ago, in favour of municipal reform, at which the property held by the Boroughholders were declared to be public; and yet they now subscribed their names to a memorial asserting that it was private. (Hear, hear.) They had found out, however, to their cost, that the public had

Digitized by Google

not changed sides like themselves, but were convinced that the hills belonged to the whole body of the inhabitants. He remembered, when he was a lad, that he and his companions used to play at a game in which they sung—

Willy Wassell
Belt a castle;
And a' the men in London town
Canna ding Willy's castle down.

(Roars of laughter.) But, somehow or other, Willy Wassell's castle always got knocked down; and the Boroughholders' Willy (hear, hear), who fell into the same error of over-confidence, found his walls on the Windmill-hills in the same predicament. (Laughter.) The inhabitants had given them a ding-down; and, if ever they were rebuilt, would ding them down again. (Cheers and laughter.) It was lucky for the Boroughholders, in more senses than one, that the houses which they had built on the hills were not untenanted; for he verily believed, if it had not been for the persons that were in them, the houses would have shared the same fate as the walls. (Hear, hear.) The Boroughholders had been punished through their own misdeeds. Justice was always retributive. Sooner or later the wrongdoer was overtaken by the penalty of his offences. He remembered when he was at the night-school with some lads—not lads exactly, for they were about three-quarters men (laughter)—some mischief was done, and he got the credit of it. The master, who was not quite a philosopher, thrashed him first, and heard his defence afterwards. (Laughter.) He told him that some of the other scholars had told lies of him, and were themselves the guilty parties; and he proved an *alibi* by the evidence of Henny Jenny's lass—who showed that when the mischief was done he was cuddling her in her mistress's pantry. (Roars of laughter.) The meeting might laugh, but it was no laughing matter to the lads that told lies; for, like the Boroughholders, they found to their sorrow that punishment overtakes the sinners. (Laughter.) He had much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN put it to the meeting, and it was carried unanimously, and with loud cheers.

Mr. W. L. HARLE, in rising to move the second resolution, observed that he was not in be habit of closely connecting himself with the municipal matters of the borough in which he resided. What little time he had to spare for public business, was chiefly devoted to the corporate concerns of Newcastle. He had not interferred in the question of the Borough Property, nor should he now have meddled with it, if it had not been for the appearance of the remarkable document under consideration, bearing the signatures of certain of his neighbours on both sides of the Tyne, and containing a gross and disgraceful libel on the people of Gateshead. (Applause.) The memorial did not merely prefer a charge against Messrs. Brockett and Davis. If it had—if it had gone no further than that—he hardly knew that he should have departed from his policy of non-interference; for Mr. Brockett and Mr. Davis were educated and accomplished gentlemen, and well able to defend themselves. But the memorialists brought a foul and ribald charge against the inhabitants of the borough—representing the men who threw down the walls as an idle and dissolute mob, headed by policemen and justices, and perpetrating a lawless and violent outrage. Was this true? Was it a fact that the working men of Gateshead had tumultuously assembled on the hills, and committed a disgraceful infraction of the rights of property? To make such an assertion was a gross misrepresentation. An open space of ground—one of the greenest places of a borough not celebrated for its beauty (laughter)—had been cut up for purposes of sordid gain, and intersected by unsightly walls; and the inhabitants, indignant at the "outrage" committed on their property by the Boroughholders, had taken the most summary mode of asserting their rights. (Applause.) Would any man believe that the working classes of Gateshead, at the nod and beck of Mr. Brockett and Mr. Davis, would have done such an act, if they had not been sensible of suffering wrong? They had thrown down the walls to clear a way for themselves to fresh air and green walks, and to secure to their children the property of their forefathers. (Applause.) That was the question between the people of Gateshead and the eight memorialists. In his opinion, as a lawyer, the people were in the right, and the Boroughholders were in the wrong; and the Boroughholders were evidently of the same opinion, for they had not dared to enforce their right by an action-at-law. (Cheers.) No! they shrunk from legal proceedings, and, with base unEnglish feeling, they rushed to the Home Secretary, to secure a bit of cheap revenge. (Hear, hear.) Their hopes had undergone a bitter disappointment. Sir James Graham had turned his back upon them, and their townsmen were holding this splendid meeting to scorch them with the fire of public indignation, and express their approval of the conduct of Mr. Brockett and Mr. Davis. (Applause.) If Sir James had not been a man of sense, and assisted by acute advisers, he would have supposed, on reading the memorial, that Gateshead had been handed over to rebellion, and the lives, liberties, and possessions of its well-disposed inhabitants placed in imminent peril. (Hear, hear.) Not satisfied with making Messrs. Brockett and Davis, and the mob which they commanded, responsible for the "outrage" on the hills, the memorialists had the audacity to link them with the drunken and degraded rabble of soldiers who afterwards broke the peace of the Sabbath in Gateshead by their debauchery and brutal violence. (Cries of "Shame, shame!") Nor were they satisfied until they had also dragged in the "pitmen's strike," to fill up the black and appalling picture. (Laughter.) The meaning of all this was plain. The Boroughholders were moved by personal, bitter, and, he must say, malignant feelings, and were resolved to leave no stone unturned in the prosecution of their unworthy purpose. And what was the result of all their unscrupulous doings? The Home Secretary had refused to interfere—had declined to decide the Borough Question—and told the Boroughholders they must just fight it out. If he (Mr. H.) knew anything of the people of Gateshead, they, most certainly, would fight it to the last, and never permit the reconstruction of the walls. (Applause.) The memorialists, when they dispatched their statement to the Home Secretary, little supposed that it would so soon return to whence it came, and appear in print. Their ignorant expectation was, that Sir James Graham would allow them to wield the stiletto under his protecting shield, and conceal the hand which struck the blow. (Hear, hear.) But their foolish hopes were disappointed, and their deeds of darkness brought to light. — Mr. Harle pronounced an eloquent eulogium on the talents and public services of Mr. Brockett—his freedom from selfish motives and unworthy aims. He also paid a high compliment to Mr. Davis and Mr. Revely—the latter of whom, he observed, had most appropriately taken up the question of the encroachments on the hills, being the Chairman of the Town Improvement Committee. Mr. H. resumed his seat amidst loud applause. The motion which he moved was as follows:—

"That the town-council of Gateshead is entitled to the best thanks of this meeting, for the bold and vigorous mode in which it has maintained the public rights on the Windmill-hills."

A gentleman near the door said he would gladly second the motion. The CHAIRMAN inquired the name of the seconder; and some said, "Mr. Walker." (A cry of "Mr. *Forster* Walker?" and loud laughter.) The seconder was WILLIAM WALKER, Esq., of the Commercial Bank.

Mr. GEORGE STRAKER expressed a desire to say a word or two in support of the resolution, and was received with loud cheers. It might be thought intrusive, he said, in one who had so recently come to reside amongst them, that he should take part in a public meeting of the inhabitants; but he had lived from twenty to thirty happy years in the borough, at a former period of his life, and had always cherished a warm heart towards Gateshead. (Applause.) The walls on the Windmill-hills had been thrown down, and the people had done well. But he never liked half-measures—and, in the present case, the work was only half-done. The walls had been thrown down, but the hills should also be restored to their former state. (Cheers.) He remembered seeing his own children sprawling on the grass, and should like to see other people's children doing the same. He would suggest that notice be given to the Boroughholders to remove the stones, or they would be removed for them. (Cheers and laughter.) If the hint were not taken, then let the stones be removed and sold. The money might be spent in putting the hills in order; and the surplus could be handed to the Boroughholders—if there were any. (Laughter.) With Mr. Brockett, whose removal from the bench the Boroughholders had attempted, he had long been intimate. There were few men had so good a head, and no man had a better heart. (Loud applause.) He was a man who never allowed his private interests to interfere with his public duties or with the public good. (Renewed applause.) The Boroughholders, who sought

Digitized by Google

to withhold from the people their rights, were deserving of the severest condemnation. Even if the hills *were* their own, the gift of them to the people would be an act of liberality which had often been surpassed. The other day, in Manchester, at a public meeeting to promote the formation of parks, playgrounds, &c., for the people, Lord Francis Egerton subscribed £1,000, and Mr. Mark Philips, M.P., £1,000; and the sum of £11,000 was subscribed before the meeting broke up. (Applause.) This was was what sailors called going ahead, but the Boroughholders seemed more inclined to go astern. (Laughter.) They were attempting, not to open out, but to shut up, a public park; and they had not only got up a memorial which was unjust and untrue, but had gone about it in a mean, cowardly, dastardly fashion. (Cheers.) Had they been men of honour, they would have furnished Mr. Brockett and Mr. Davis with a copy of the document. But they sent it off privately, and were fools enough to suppose that it would never see the light. They took Sir James Graham to be as bad as themselves. They must have known little of the proceedings of public offices, or they would have known that their memorial and their names could not possibly be concealed. Sir James, as a matter of course, sent it back to Gateshead; and now they had got his answer—of which he wished them much joy. (Laughter.)

The motion having been put and carried, Mr. REVELY returned thanks. The memorialists, he observed, informed the Home Secretary that the paths over the hills were in a bad state before the Boroughholders took them in hand. The fact was, it was the Boroughholders who reduced them to so deplorable a state; and when Mr. Nicholas Andrews, one of the stewards, was remonstrated with, he said, "Hoo! we care nothing at all aboot ye! we hev a majority o' the Magistrates, and a majority o' the Council, and a majority o' the Boroughholders; and we care nothing aboot ye!" (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He was determined to see if Mr. Andrews was in the right as to the town-council—and, by this time, the worthy steward must have found out his mistake. Mr. R. spoke at some length on the importance of the Windmill-hills to the health and enjoyment of the people, and appealed to the Boroughholders no longer to withhold the rights and oppose the wishes of their fellow-townsmen. The worthy councillor then resumed his seat amidst loud applause.

Mr. GARBUTT was next called upon, and said, so many remarks had been made on this remarkable piece of business (laughter), that he would only say, the committee appointed to carry into execution the instructions of the town council was one of the most unanimous of the municipal committees. There was no division of opinion amongst them, and each and all were alike responsible for what was done. (Applause.) He thanked the meeting most cordially for the resolution which had been passed.

Mr. THOMAS PRINGLE, jun., rose to move the third resolution, and referred to the noble efforts making in Manchester and other large towns, to provide parks for the people. In Gateshead, it might be difficult to raise any large sum of money for such a purpose; but, happily, they had a piece of ground already; and it only required that the people should be alive to their own rights and interests, and secure to themselves and posterity the possession of the hills. He would move:—

"That this meeting believes the Windmill-hills to be the property of the inhabitants of Gateshead, and trusts that they will never again allow the Boroughholders and Freemen to build thereon."

The motion was seconded by Mr. JOHN FAWCETT, and carried unanimously.

Mr. JOHN HUNTER rose to express his gratification at witnessing so large and unanimous a meeting, and to see amongst them that venerable and worthy man, Mr. Straker. (Applause.) He was himself an old mariner, and he loved and respected Mr. Straker. He agreed with him that the stones should all be cleared away from the hills, and thought some motion should be passed to that effect.

Mr. STRAKER moved, and Mr. HUNTER seconded, the following resolution—which was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting do recommend to the Town Council to give notice to the parties who have laid the stones on the Windmill-hills to remove the same; and in case the notice shall not be complied with, that the Council, on behalf of the inhabitants of the borough, do remove the same."

The TOWN CLERK was requested by the meeting to read the letter received by the Mayor from the Home Office, and stated that a copy of it was sent to him a short time before the meeting. [Mr. Kell read the letter, and we have given a copy of it in another column.]

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was moved by Mr. HARLE, and seconded by Mr. COOK.

Some one cried, "What's got the Mayor?" Mr. J. BLAGBURN said, he could answer that question. The Mayor had called upon him with his answer to the requisition, and informed him, at the same time, that having presided over the inquiry instituted at the request of Sir James Graham, he felt that he could not well take the chair at the public meeting, and must decline to do so. He (Mr. Blagburn) thought his Worship had decided properly. (Applause.)

Thanks were voted to the Chairman by acclamation; and the meeting, after giving three times three cheers for Messrs. Brockett and Davis, and three for Mr. Harle, came to a conclusion.

THE WALLS ON THE WINDMILL-HILLS.

AT a PUBLIC MEETING of the INHABITANTS of the BOROUGH of GATESHEAD, holden in the Townhall, on Wednesday, the 21st of August, 1844, convened by Mr. MAYOR, in compilance with a Requisition bearing 81 signatures, "to take into consideration the Memorial recently transmitted by a Committee of the Boroughholders to Sir James Graham, praying for the Reprimand or Dismissal of W. H. Brockett and Robert Davis, Esquires, two of the Magistrates of this borough, with a view of ascertaining the opinions of the inhabitants as to the manner in which those gentlemen have conducted themselves in the discharge of their magisterial duties:"

In the absence of Mr. Mayor, and on the motion of Mr. William Lockey Harle, Mr. WILLIAM WIGHAM WATSON was called to the chair.

Resolved unanimously,
On the motion of Mr. William Cook,
Seconded by Mr. John Blagburn,

That the recent attempt to depreciate the public character of Messes. Brockett and Davis, Justices of the Borough of Gateshead, by urging the Secretary of State to remove those gentlemen from the Commission of the Peace, deserves the severest condemnation of this meeting, as an act devoid alike of honour and feeling.

Resolved unanimously,
On the motion of Mr. W. L. Harle,
Seconded by Mr. William Walker,

That the Town Council of Gateshead is entitled to the best thanks of this meeting, for the bold and vigorous mode in which it has maintained the public rights on the Windmill-hills.

Resolved unanimously,
On the motion of Mr. Thomas Pringle, jun.,
Seconded by Mr. John Fawcett,

That this meeting believes the Windmill-hills to be the property of the inhabitants of Gateshead, and trusts that they will never again allow the Boroughholders and Freemen to build thereon.

Resolved unanimously,
On the motion of Mr. George Straker,
Seconded by Mr. John Hunter,

That this meeting do recommend to the Town Council to give notice to the parties who have laid the stones on the Windmill-hills to remove the same; and in case the notice shall not be complied with, that the Council, on behalf of the inhabitants of the borough, do remove the same.

WILLIAM WIGHAM WATSON, Chairman.

August 21, 1844.

Resolved unanimously,
On the motion of Mr. W. L. Harle,
Seconded by Mr. William Cook,

That this meeting do thank the Chairman for his able and impartial conduct in the chair.

Digitized by Google

PUBLIC WALKS:—THE WINDMILL HILLS.

THE Committee to whom the distribution of the Parliamentary grant for public walks is entrusted, are busily employed, we understand, in obtaining information as to any portions of undivided commons, village-greens, or other vacant spaces of ground that may have been enjoyed immemorially by the public of large towns, and are capable, at the same time, of being made ornamental as well as healthful places of recreation. We are glad to hear this. There are a great many places—and Gateshead is one of them—which, already possessing fine pieces of ground like the Windmill-hills, only need the pecuniary assistance of the Legislature to render such pieces of ground at once creditable and agreeable to the inhabitants. Should the Committee be pleased to direct their attention to Gateshead, the Borough-holders, we trust, will offer no resistance. Nothing would tend more to prevent "outrage" in a town, than taking care that its population were deprived of none of the recreative privileges they possessed.

In another page, we have reported the sayings and doings of a public meeting on the subject of the Windmill-hills, to which we have much pleasure in directing attention. Neither "at home," nor at the "Home Office," have the Borough-holders profited by their miserable memorial. The following letters have passed in connection with their proceedings:—

Gateshead, August 20, 1844.

DEAR SIR,—I am instructed by the Mayor of Gateshead to inform you that, on the 12th instant, he forwarded to Sir James Graham his Report on the subject of the pulling down of the walls on the Windmill-hills, and at the same time enclosed to Sir James the statements made by you and Mr. Davis relating thereto. The Mayor has since received from Mr. H. Manners Sutton a letter, which has been laid before the Magistrates of the borough this day; and by the directions of the Mayor and Magistrates, I now enclose you a copy of Mr. Sutton's letter.

I am, dear Sir, yours very obediently,

W. H. Brockett, Esq., Gateshead. THOMAS SWINBURNE.

Whitehall, August 13, 1844.

SIR,—I am directed by Secretary Sir James Graham to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst., in reply to Mr. Phillipps's letter of the 16th ult.

Into the question of the respective rights of the Boroughholders and Freemen and of the Council of the Borough of Gateshead to property in dispute between them, the Secretary of State does not feel it his duty to inquire.

It is however the duty of the Magistrates of the Borough to preserve the public peace, and to prevent riot or tumult; and Sir James Graham relies on their taking the proper steps for bringing to justice any parties who may, upon inquiry, appear to them to have violated the law.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

The Mayor of Gateshead. H. MANNERS SUTTON.

We need hardly add that we cordially and entirely agree with Sir James Graham. "It is the duty of the Magistrates," undoubtedly, "to preserve the public peace, and to prevent riot and tumult;" and the Secretary of State, we trust, will not be disappointed in relying on the Magistrates' "taking the proper steps for bringing to justice any parties who may, upon inquiry, appear to them to have violated the law."

And in order to show Sir James Graham and the public how well the police of the borough have been supported (by the Magistrates) in their endeavours "to preserve the public peace, and to prevent riot and tumult," we deem it right to append the following instructive narrative, which has been extracted from the minutes of the Watch Committee:—

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

AT a Meeting of the Watch Committee of the Borough of Gateshead held in the Justice Room, on Wednesday, the 27th of March, 1844,

COUNCILLOR JAMES SMITH IN THE CHAIR,

Mr. Rudd, the Superintendent of Police, stated that he was desired by Mr. Mayor to report the following facts to the Committee, viz.:—

That on Sunday morning, the 10th of March, about 2 o'clock, Police-Constable Richard Fairlamb was going his rounds; and when near Jackson-street he heard the cries of "Police." He hastened up to near Pleasant-row, whence the cries proceeded, and found two women fighting. He got them separated, and they went home. Shortly afterwards, one of them, named Powell, returned, and commenced clapping her hands, making a great noise, and disturbing the neighbourhood, and would not go off the street nor be quiet; consequently the officer took her into custody on a charge of breaking the peace. Police-Constable Andrew Thompson came up to Fairlamb's assistance; and whilst they were engaged in conveying her to the station-house, and she was going quietly and willingly with the officers, her husband, Joseph Powell, came up, and struck Fairlamb on the head with a brick, and inflicted a severe wound on his forehead, and he fell into the channel. Police-Constable Thompson, on seeing this, drew his truncheon, and struck out; and there being a great crowd of people assembled in consequence of the disturbance, the truncheon hit Joseph Powell on the head; and from the effects of the blow he fell, and became insensible, and was conveyed home. Mr. Watson, the Surgeon of the Dispensary, who was present, was called in, and he dressed P.C. Fairlamb's head. Mr. Rudd came up at the time, and, as Powell was well known, deemed it proper to let the matter stand over till Tuesday, the 12th, and then apply for a summons against him—which was granted accordingly; and on Friday, the 15th, he appeared before the Mayor, and W. H. Brockett and William Hymers, Esqrs., the Sitting Magistrates. Fairlamb stated the above facts to the Bench; which were corroborated by Mr. Watson, so far as he saw. Powell, in his defence, stated that his wife, who was present, had been most brutally used by the officer, who had struck her with his truncheon. This was positively denied by Fairlamb. The Bench considered the matter with closed doors; and after the lapse of about ten minutes, the defendant was ordered in; when the Mayor, together with W. H. Brockett, Esq., ordered him to pay a mitigated penalty of 20s., and 9s. 6d. costs; and in case of nonpayment he was ordered to be imprisoned one calendar month; and the deciding Magistrates stated, that the officers had, in their opinion, only acted in accordance with their duty. William Hymers, Esq., the other Magistrate, DISSENTED FROM THIS DECISION, AND, ON LEAVING THE COURT, CALLED THE POLICE A SET OF BUTCHERS, AND DECLARED HE WOULD HAVE THEM ALL BROKE, to the great discredit of the whole of the police-establishment.

Mr. Mayor instructed Mr. Rudd to lay the matter before the Watch Committee, in order that they might inquire into the conduct of the police.

Mr. N. J. Watson, Surgeon to the Gateshead Dispensary, detailed such of the circumstances as had come under his observation; and, in reply to a question from the Committee, stated that, from what he saw, the police did not use unnecessary harshness or severity, but, on the contrary, they behaved with great forbearance.

Resolved unanimously,—

That this Committee have investigated the transaction on the 10th of March instant, in which the conduct of Policemen Richard Fairlamb and Andrew Thompson has been blamed, in taking Joseph Powell into custody, and are of opinion that the policemen did on that occasion perform their duty and no more, and that they behaved with great forbearance.

After such a resolution of the Watch Committee, *we* shall not attempt to decide between the respective claims of the Mayor and Mr. Brockett on the one hand, and of Mr. William Hymers on the other, to the confidence of the Secretary of State. Perhaps the Boroughholders may deem it expedient to do so at their next meeting. They should not desert their friends.

GATESHEAD FELL.—The members of the Association for the Prosecution of Felons on Gateshead Fell, held their annual meeting in the Public Rooms, on Monday, Aug 26. After auditing the accounts for the past year, the company sat down to a most comfortable dinner, provided by Miss Watson, of the Crown inn. The chair was filled by Thomas Wilson, Esq., and the vice chair by Secretary Ferguson (whose taste in the selection of the wines gave general satisfaction). It is perhaps something to say for the honesty of the vicinity, that the expenses of the association seldom exceed the expenses of the dinner.

BRANDLING JUNCTION RAILWAY.—The company held a special meeting (August 26,) at the Old Rectory, Gateshead, (J. W. Williamson, Esq., of Whickham, in the chair). There was a very numerous attendance on the occasion, all the shareholders being naturally anxious to be "in at the death;" for the question to be considered was nothing less than the propriety of ceasing to struggle for a separate and independent existence. The directors had negotiated with the Newcastle and Darlington Company the sale of the Brandling line (Tanfield branch and all), at a premium of ten per cent.; and the shareholders were called together to ratify or reject the treaty. Mr. James Potts, the company's secretary, read the notice of meeting, and a copy of the agreement. Mr. Philipson moved that the latter be ratified, and that the directors be empowered to carry it into effect. Mr. Plues seconded the motion. The Rev. R. Green, of Longhorsley, moved an amendment, viz., that the consideration of the question be postponed to that day month, and the meeting adjourned to the same date. Mr. F. Mason having seconded the amendment, the shareholders divided:—In favour of it, 14: against it, 51. There was a second division, which ended in the adoption of the original motion by 54 votes against 6.—Thanks were voted to Mr. Williamson, and the shareholders separated.——The half-yearly meeting was held on Thursday, the 29th August, (Mr. Williamson in the chair). Mr. Potts read a report and balance sheet;

Digitized by Google

which, on the motion of Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. Bolam, were received and adopted. Mr. Plues moved a vote of thanks to the directors, for the able and judicious manner in which they had conducted the sale of the railway and effects of the company. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ald. Nichol, and unanimously passed; and thanks having been given to the Chairman, the meeting separated.

NEWCASTLE AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY.—On and after to-morrow (Sept. 1), all railway-passengers from Gateshead, eastward and southward, will depart from the new station in Greene's-field, the Brandling Junction line having been incorporated with the Newcastle and Darlington. To avoid delays at the Belmont and Brockley Whins junctions, special engines will henceforth be kept at both places. From Gateshead, Shields, and Wearmouth, trains will run on the weekdays at ¼6, 8, 9, 10¼, 11, 12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5¼, 6, 7, 8, and 9; and on Sundays at 8¼, 10¼, 11, 1, 2, 5, 7, and 9. The Springwell and Jarrow trains start at 10¼, 1, 5, and 9, on Sundays; 8, 10, 12, 2, and 8, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays; and at 8, 10¼, 12, 2, 5¼, and 8, on Saturdays. Trains leave Tanfield Moor at 8½ on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays; returning from Gateshead at 3½ on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 3½ and 4½ on Pay Saturdays, and at 4½ on other Saturdays.

THE MYSTERIOUS HOMICIDE.—The violent death of Thomas Robson, who was shot in the night of the 10th Aug., near to the Ravensworth (or Team) colliery, in the parish of Lamesley, by some person unknown, has continued to occupy the mind of the public to the present time, and especially in and around Gateshead Fell. We have received oral and written communications on the subject, evincing the anxiety of our neighbours for the removal of the mystery which enshrouds the midnight deed of blood, but, for obvious reasons, we cannot give them insertion in our journal.—On the 28th Aug., two of the witnesses examined by the coroner, namely, John Fleck and James Jefferson, (who had been taken into custody by Inspector Hall,) were placed before J. W. Williamson and G. H. Ramsay, Esqrs., county magistrates, at the petty sessions in the Goat public house, Gateshead. There was a numerous assemblage of the inhabitants in the justice-room, and on the stairs, all anxious to hear the examination. Mr. Radford was in attendance as solicitor for Fleck, and Mr. W. L. Harle for Jefferson. The magistrates retired to an adjoining room, with their legal adviser, Mr. Swinburne, and heard the evidence which the inspector was prepared to lay before them. After an absence of considerable duration, Mr. Favell, the coroner, was called upon to join the magistrates; and there was again a long interval of suspense in the justice-room. At length the magistrates returned to the bench. The prisoners were called to the bar, and Mr. Williamson, addressing them, stated that evidence had been laid before himself and his colleague, in addition to that taken at the inquest, and they were of opinion that the police were justified in what they had done; but the new facts were not such as to induce the magistrates to take up the inquiry. They would leave it in the hands of the coroner, and discharge the prisoners from custody.—Fleck and Jefferson were consequently liberated—and so the matter rests.

THE STRIKE OF THE COAL MINERS.—The coal-miners' strike, in the counties of Durham and Northumberland, is said to be now brought to a close, by a complete defeat of the unhappy men who turned out. The strike has been remarkable for the length of its continuance, and, upon the whole, for the quietness and public peace which have accompanied it. The result will do anything but convince those men that they have been in the wrong, nor does it wholly convince us. One thing, however, they ought to consider—that it proves, namely, that their strike was an injudicious step; and it will be an addition to the already abundant evidence, that *all* long-continued strikes are injudicious and injurious—if not solely, at least mostly—to those who originate them. We will not aggravate those men, in the moment of defeat, by lecturing them on their errors. They must know them, and, of course, repent of them by this time themselves. We are afraid much bad blood has been engendered in the course of their cessation from labour, which will not disappear by their return to it. Some good may have been done also. No doubt they must know something of political economy that they did not know before. They must know that the amount of wages is not regulated by the temporary whims of employers or employed, and therefore can neither be raised nor depressed at the pleasure of one party or the other. But even that valuable knowledge (and all knowledge is valuable) will be poor consolation to men having less wages than they can comfortably subsist on. And it is a striking and melancholy fact, that the wages of labour continue to fall from time to time, with increased population, and unincreased means of employment and sustenance. But to that declension of comfort there must come an end some time, and in some way. If statesmen were wise they would not put off the day of reckoning and settlement till the public peace is endangered; but such threatens to be the case—and in doing so their responsibility is great indeed.—*Economist.*

NORTHUMBERLAND RAILWAY,
FROM NEWCASTLE TO BERWICK-ON-TWEED.

CAPITAL, £1,000,000, in 20,000 Shares of £50 each.

DEPOSIT, £3 per Share, of which not more than 10s. will be expended until the opinion of the Board of Trade, under the New Regulations relating to Railways, shall have been ascertained.

PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE.

The Right Hon. the Viscount Howick, M.P.
The Right Hon. the Viscount Morpeth.
The Right Hon. Lord Ossulston, M.P. for the Northern Division of Northumberland.
Sir Francis Blake, Bart., Tilmouth Park.
Roger Buston, Esq., of Buston.
A. J. Baker Cresswell, Esq., M.P. for the Northern Division of Northumberland.
Hananel de Castro, Esq., South-street, Finsbury-square.
Matthew Culley, Esq., Fowberry Tower.
A. R. Fenwick, Esq., Netherton House, Morpeth.
The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart., M.P.
R. Hawdon, Esq., Mayor of Morpeth.
Joseph Lamb, Esq., Axwell Park.
The Rev. J. S. Ogle, Kirkley Hall.
Savile C. H. Ogle, Esq., M.P. for the Southern Division of Northumberland.
W. Ord, Esq., M.P. for Newcastle.
John Lewis Ricardo, Esq., M.P.
Henry Christopher Robarts, Esq., Lombard-street.
Denis M. Samuel, Esq., Austin Friars.
Prideaux John Selby, Esq., Twizel House.
Prideaux Selby, Esq., Swansfield.
George Silvertop, Esq., of Minster Acres.
William Tewart, Esq., Swinhoe.
Edwart Tewart, Esq., Coupland Castle.
Hugh Taylor, Esq., Earsdon.
W. A. Wilkinson, Esq., Chairman of the London and Croydon Railway Company.

WITH POWER TO ADD TO THEIR NUMBER.

COMMITTEE OF DIRECTION.

The Right Hon. the Viscount Howick, M.P., Chairman.
William Arthur Wilkinson, Esq., Vice-Chairman.
Hananel de Castro, Esq.
Joseph Lamb, Esq.
John Lewis Ricardo, Esq., M.P.
Henry Christopher Robarts, Esq.
Denis M. Samuel, Esq.
Prideaux Selby, Esq.

WITH POWER TO ADD TO THEIR NUMBER.—(THE COMMITTEE NOT TO EXCEED TWELVE.)

ENGINEER.

J. K. BRUNEL, Esq., F.R.S.

BANKERS.

Messrs. Robarts, Curtis, Robarts, & Co., Lombard-street, London.

Northumberland and Durham District Bank, { Newcastle-on-Tyne. Morpeth. Alnwick.

Messrs. Burchell, Kilgour, & Parson, 15, Parliament-street, London; Messrs. John & Anthony Lambert, Alnwick, } Joint Solicitors.

THIS line (about 60 miles in length) will complete the great chain of Railway Communication between London and Edinburgh. From London to Newcastle, the

Digitized by Google

Railways are made; and from Berwick to Edinburgh, the line will be continued by the construction of the North British Railway, which has received the sanction of the Legislature in the present session.

It is proposed to carry the line, throughout its entire length, as nearly as possible in the general direction of the present main turnpike-road from Newcastle to Edinburgh, passing by the towns of Morpeth and Alnwick as closely as a due regard to the convenience of the landowners will permit, and through the populous Eastern district of the county.

The great stream of traffic between England and Scotland will thus be continued in its present route; the prosperity of the towns and country now enjoying the benefit of that traffic will be greatly increased by the construction of this line; and all objection on the ground of diversion of existing traffic will be obviated.

The undertaking has much local support, and is actively promoted by, or has the concurrence of, the principal landowners.

It is proposed, under the advice of the Engineer, to adopt the Atmospheric Principle of Traction, by means of which the amount of earthwork will be considerably reduced, and the trains will be conveyed more economically, at greater velocity, and with more safety and comfort to the passenger than on the locomotive system. The soundness of this principle has been fully established by the evidence given before the Committees of the Houses of Lords and Commons, on the Croydon and Epsom Railway Bill, by some of the most eminent Engineers of the day—Mr. Brunel, Mr. Cubitt, Mr. Vignoles, Mr. Farey, and Mr. Field—and especially by Mr. Gibbons, the Engineer of the Dublin and Kingstown Railway, who had superintended its application on the Dalkey extension of that line, and had witnessed its complete success in its continued working during a period of upwards of six months.*

The line will not interfere prejudicially with residential or ornamental property; and as there will be an entire absence of the noise, smoke, chance of damage from fire, and the other annoyances inseparable from the use of the locomotive engine, it will necessarily be more agreeable to the inhabitants of the districts through which it will pass.

The railway will, as a main trunk line, command the entire traffic between London and Edinburgh, and between the Eastern districts of England and Scotland; and as it passes through a populous country, and one abounding in mineral wealth, the local traffic will be very considerable. By a short Branch to Kelso, a large population in that neighbourhood would be brought into direct communication with the proposed line.

The extreme cheapness of coal throughout the district traversed will cause a considerable reduction in the ordinary working expenses of the line.

A still further economy may probably be effected by the stationary engines being employed for other purposes when not required for the conveyance of the traffic on the line.

The Directors will have power to enter into such arrangements with any other Company as they may deem expedient.

Under the new regulations relating to railways, this scheme will be submitted to the Board of Trade. If the Minute or Report of the Board be favourable, it will, in all probability, insure the sanction of Parliament to the undertaking; and until this Minute or Report be made, the expenses will be limited to the sum of 10s. per share.

16th August, 1844.

Application for Shares to be made to the Solicitors according to the subjoined form:—

FORM OF APPLICATION.

To the Directors of the Northumberland Railway Company.

GENTLEMEN,—I request that you will insert my name as a subscriber for shares in the Northumberland Railway Company; and I hereby undertake to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, and to pay the deposits thereon, and to execute the Parliamentary contract and subscriber's agreement, as and when required. I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant

Name
Trade or Profession (if any)
Residence

Date Reference

* N.B. Before any expense is incurred in laying down the Atmospheric Apparatus on the Northumberland Railway, the applicability of the Atmospheric System to a long line will have been still further exemplified on the Epsom Railway.

TO THE COUNTY RATEPAYERS OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

GENTLEMEN,—I am indebted to the *Law Times* for a copy of a Return to Parliament from County Treasurers, stating whether any and what officer is employed in superintending the buildings, bridges, &c., of the respective counties of England, with the sums paid in one year. In my present letter, I simply invite your attention to this "return."

		£	s.	d.
Bedfordshire	County Surveyor	110	0	0
Berkshire	Three offices	112	10	10
Buckinghamshire	Four offices	90	4	0
Cambridgeshire	None			
Cheshire	Mr. Fowl's salary	460	0	0
	Mr. Cole's per centage	28	9	0
Cornwall	Mr. J. Chapple	66	5	0
	Mr. W. Norman	46	19	3
	Mr. W. Chapple	9	10	11
Cumberland	Mr. T. Milton's salary	450	0	0
Derbyshire	Mr. T. Worth (£1 6s. per day during actual services)	15	12	0
Devonshire	Officer's salary	200	0	0
Dorsetshire	Mr. G. Evans's salary	200	0	0
Durham	Mr. Bonomi's salary	170	0	0
	Mr. Simpson's salary	90	0	0
Essex	Mr. T. Hopper's salary	250	0	0
	Allowances	62	16	0
Gloucestershire	Salary	21	0	0
	Allowances	266	7	6
Hampshire	Mr. W. Gover's salary	25	0	0
	Allowances	181	16	6
Herefordshire	Surveyor's salary	75	0	0
Hertfordshire	Ditto ditto	25	0	0
Huntingdonshire	Ditto ditto	12	12	0
	Allowances	27	16	6
Kent	Surveyor's salary	200	0	0
	Allowances	26	10	0
	Commission as architect of lunatic asylum	362	10	0
Lancashire	Mr. E. Sharpe's salary	52	10	0
Leicestershire	Mr. W. Parsons' salary	100	0	0
	Allowances	26	2	6
	For drawing plans of prisons as architect	184	11	6
Lincolnshire	Mr. T. Pear, for Holland	10	0	0
	Ditto, for Kesteven	18	8	0
	Mr. S. Padley, for Lindsay	90	0	0
Middlesex	Surveyor's allowances	205	14	3
Monmouthshire	Surveyor's salary	100	0	0
Norfolk	Mr. J. Browne's salary	60	0	0
	Allowances	80	3	0
Northamptonshire	Surveyor's salary	100	0	0
	Expenses	94	8	0
Northumberland	Mr. H. Welsh's salary	600	0	0
	Allowances	10	15	1
Nottinghamshire, N.	Nothing			
———, S.	Allowances	22	9	0
Oxfordshire	Surveyor's allowances	29	8	0
Rutland	Surveyor's salary	20	0	0
Shropshire	Mr. E. Haycock's allowances	244	10	2
Somersetshire	Mr. R. Carver's allowances	193	14	3
Staffordshire	Surveyor's salary	250	0	0
Suffolk:—				
Beccles division	Mr. R. Appleton's salary	25	0	0
Ipswich division	Mr. T. Whiting's salary	50	0	0
	Mr. G. T. Knott's salary	10	0	0
Woodbridge division	Mr. J. Whiting's salary	8	0	0
	Mr. G. Thompson's salary	25	0	0
	Allowances	10	5	8
Surrey	Mr. E. Lapidge's salary	250	0	0
Sussex	Surveyor's salary	50	0	0
	Fees, &c.	37	12	0
Warwickshire	Surveyor's salary	150	12	0
Westmoriland	Mr. G. Robinson's salary	120	0	0
Wiltshire	Mr. J. Penston's salary	260	0	0
Worcestershire	Architect's allowances	244	6	8
Yorkshire, E. R.	Mr. W. Creyke's salary	25	0	0
———, N. R.	Surveyor's salary	300	0	0
———, W. R.	Ditto ditto	700	0	0

In a future letter you may have a few remarks on so instructive a Return, from, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Bywell, Aug. 30, 1844. SAMUEL DONKIN.

MONUMENT TO THE EARL OF DURHAM.

THE laying of the foundation-stone of the monument to the memory of the late Earl of Durham, (already, however, to a considerable extent erected,) was fixed to take place on Wednesday, Aug 28, at noon; and never was public demonstration favoured with finer weather. The site of the monument—Pensher, Painsher, or Painshaw Hill—is connected by railway

Digitized by Google

with nearly every market-town in the county; and thousands of persons availed themselves of this facility, to enjoy a pleasant day in the country, and pay a tribute of respect to a departed patriot.

Among the more prominent personages present were the Marquis of Normanby, the Earl of Zetland, the Hon. and Rev. Augustus Phipps, Savile Ogle, Esq., M.P., J. T. Wawn, Esq., M.P., Henry Mitcalfe, Esq., M.P., Thomas Crawford, Esq., Mark Milbank, Esq., Thomas Fenwick, Esq., Henry Morton, Esq., John Fawcett, Esq., Henry John Spearman, Esq., Colonel Tower, of Elemore Hall, Captain Allen, of Blackwell, Robert William Brandling, Esq., G. H. Ramsay, Esq., Sir Cuthbert Sharp, Dr. Brown, Walker Featherstonhaugh, Esq., James Hodgson, Esq., A. L. Potter, Esq., R. P. Philipson, Esq., Captain Weatherley, Ralph Dodds, Esq., Francis Taylor, Esq., Armorer Donkin, Esq., Abraham Storey, Esq., Secretary of the Committee, &c., &c.

The Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of the Order of Freemasons, arrived on the ground at about half-past one o'clock; shortly after which, the procession was formed, and ascended the hill as follows:—

Police Officers.
A Band of Music.
Two Tylers.
G. Steward. | The Banner of the Grand Lodge of England. | G. Steward.
The Wardens, Past Masters, and Masters of the several Lodges, according to Rank, (Juniors walking first).
G. Steward. { A Cornucopia with Corn, borne by the Master of a Lodge. Two Ewers, with Wine and Oil, borne by Two Masters of Lodges. } G. Steward.
The Officers and Past Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Northumberland, (Juniors walking first). | The Officers and Past Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham, (Juniors walking first).
The Grand Organist.
Assistant G. Director of Ceremonies. | The Grand Director of Ceremonies.
Past Grand Sword Bearers.
Past Grand Deacons.
Grand Superintendent of Works, with the Plans.
Grand Secretary, bearing the Book of Constitutions.
Grand Registrar, bearing the Great Seal.
The Grand Treasurer, bearing a Phial containing the Coin to be deposited in the Stone.
Past Grand Chaplains.
G. Steward. { The Grand Chaplain, bearing the Sacred Law on a Cushion. } G. Steward.
Past Grand Wardens.
Provincial Grand Master of Northumberland, preceded by his Banner.
The Corinthian Light, borne by the Master of a Lodge.
The J. G. Warden, with Plumb Rule.
The Doric Light, borne by the Master of a Lodge.
The J. G. Deacon.
The Column of the S. G. Warden, borne by the Master of a Lodge.
The S. G. Warden, with the Level.
The Deputy Grand Master, with the Square.
The Ionic Light, borne by the Master of a Lodge.
The Banner of the Grand Master.
The Grand Sword Bearer.
G. Steward. { The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M. W. Grand Master. } G. Steward.
The S. G. Deacon.
Two Grand Stewards.
Grand Tyler.
The Committee for the Monument.

When the head of the procession arrived at the place where it was to halt, the masonic brethren divided to the right and left, and faced inwards, forming an avenue for the M. W. Grand Master to pass through, (preceded by his banner and the Grand Sword Bearer, and followed by the Ionic light,) the Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Officers, who took their respective situations on the platform. The members of the Building Committee, &c., also took their places on the platform.

The Grand Secretary read aloud the inscription engraved on the brass-plate, prepared for insertion in the foundation-stone. The words are these:—

"This stone was laid by Thomas Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of the Free and Accepted Masons of England, assisted by the Brethren of the Provinces of Durham and Northumberland, on the 28th of August, 1844, being the foundation-stone of a Memorial to be erected to the Memory of the Right Honourable the Earl of Durham, who, after representing the County of Durham in Parliament fifteen years, was raised to the Peerage, and subsequently held the offices of Lord Privy Seal, Ambassador-Extraordinary and Minister at the Court of St. Petersburg, and Governor-General of Canada. He died on the 28th of July, 1840, in the 49th year of his age. This monument will be erected by the subscriptions of his fellow-countrymen, admirers of his distinguished talents and exemplary private virtues.—John and Benjamin Green, architects."

This plate was placed in the stone. The Grand Treasurer also deposited therein a phial containing coins. Cement was spread over the stone by the Grand Master, with a silver trowel, and another stone was lowered down upon it, the band playing "Rule, Britannia." The Grand Master tested the position of the upper stone, by means of the plumb, level, and square, and gave it three workmanlike knocks with a mall. A cornucopia containing corn, and ewers containing wine and oil, were handed to his lordship—who then addressed the multitude as follows:—

We have now laid this stone; and may the Great Creator of the Universe, in His kind providence, enable us to carry on and complete what is now begun. May He guard this place and the country generally, and preserve it from ruin and decay to the latest posterity. I strew this corn as the symbol of plenty, I pour this wine as the symbol of cheerfulness, I pour this oil as the symbol of comfort and consolation; and may the All-Bounteous Author of Nature bless this place and the country with abundance of corn, wine, and oil, and the necessaries, comforts, and conveniences of life. May the same Almighty Being preserve its inhabitants in peace, unity, and brotherly love; towards which great objects, no one, during his earthly career, exerted himself more assiduously and successfully than that nobleman whose memory we are met this day to celebrate.

The Grand Chaplain, the Rev. Robert Green, incumbent of All Saints', Newcastle-upon-Tyne, offered up a prayer in the following words:—

Almighty God, the Creator of the Universe, thou hast disposed all things according to the excellency of thy will. Thou madest the heavens for thy majesty, the sun and stars for thy glory and our comfort, and the earth as a place for the exercise of our obedience to thy laws. Look down on thy servants, now assembled together in thy name, to lay the foundation of a temple to departed dignity and worth. May the Master instruct and confirm the brethren, and may the brethren honour and obey the Master. Bless their going out and their coming in for ever. May their baskets be filled with plentousness, and the voice of joy and thanksgiving ascend. May there be no mourning and sorrow of heart. May the wayfaring man find joy in his journey as he passes this temple. O Lord, prosper thou our handiwork; and teach us in all times and in all places to build on the body of holiness, and the sure foundation of faith. May he who has gone before us have arrived at that glorious mansion of the skies where all things are perfect; and may we hereafter be collected together where there shall be no more labour, nor crying, nor sorrow, but peace, happiness, and joy for ever and ever.

The plans of the monument were submitted to the Grand Master for his inspection. [The design is that of a Grecian temple of the Doric order, with eighteen pillars, (sixteen of which are nearly completed). Each pillar is 6½ feet in diameter, and 36 feet high. One of them contains a winding staircase, giving access to the summit of the structure. The length of the temple will be 100 feet, and the breadth 53. The dimensions are double those of the temple of Theseus. The architects are Messrs. J. & B. Green, of Newcastle: the contractor, Mr. Pratt, of Sunderland. The stone is a free gift from the Marquis of Londonderry. The hill, we understand, is to be planted with trees and shrubs, and there will be a carriage-drive to the summit.]

The trowel with which the mortar was spread by the Grand Master, was presented to his lordship by Mr. Spearman, in the name of the committee, and was made for the occasion by Messrs. Reid & Sons, of Newcastle, silversmith. On one side was an engraving of the temple, and on the other the following inscription:—

"This trowel was used by the Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of the United Lodge of Freemasons of England, in laying the foundation-stone of the monument erected to the Memory of the late Earl of Durham, G.C.B., Pro. Grand Master of Durham and Northumberland.—28th August, 1844.—John and Benjamin Green, architects."

Sir Cuthbert Sharp officiated as Provincial Grand Master of Durham, and William Loraine, Esq., P.G.M. of Northumberland. M. L. Jobling, Esq., was Deputy P.G.M. of the latter county.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies, the band played "God save the Queen," and the procession returned to a tent erected for the occasion.

In the evening, the political admirers of the noble earl dined in two parties—one at Mr. Crow's, the Wheat Sheaf, Monkwearmouth, and the other at Mr. Donkin's, the Bridge Hotel, Bishopwearmouth. "The Immortal Memory of John George, Earl of Durham," and other appropriate toasts, were drunk on the occasion. Ald. Allison occupied the chair, and A. J. Moore, Esq., the vice-chair, at the Bridge Hotel. There were also pre-

Digitized by Google

sent — Messrs. Crawford, Brunton, (town-clerk), Harrison, Halcro, Rutherford, Robert and Thomas Wight, Robert and William French, Carling, Hardcastle, J. C. Carr, T. Thompson, E. Embleton, J. P. Simpson, &c.

At the Wheat Sheaf, Dr. White was in the chair, the duties of which he very ably discharged. The speeches, sentiments, songs, and jokes, delivered on the occasion, though not so good as the dinner, (which was capital,) were nevertheless sufficiently so to make the company feel happy together and loth to part.

THE NEWCASTLE TOWN COUNCIL.

THE Council met on the 11th Sept.—There was a conversation, originated by Mr. A. G. GRAY, on the subject of an approaching visit by a deputation from the Board of Customs, and which, in Mr. G.'s opinion, would afford a good opportunity of pressing the claims of Newcastle to be ranked a first-class port. Mr. Ald. NICHOL observed that the officers of the custom-house would acquire an increase of salary from the change, but the port generally would not be benefited. Mr. GRAY differed from the worthy Alderman—(and so do we).

There was a long debate on the motion of Mr. Ald. NICHOL, seconded by Mr. ARCHBOLD, to confirm the Report of the Finance Committee on the subject of ground at the Forth, required by the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway Company for the erection of a station. Mr. Ald. DUNN, Chairman of the Committee, was opposed to the Report, contending that the ground ought not to be parted with at the present time, when the question of railway-communication through Newcastle to Scotland was in so unsettled a position. He therefore moved that the consideration of the Report be postponed. Mr. STRAKER seconded the amendment, and it was supported by Mr. C. RAYNE and Mr. A. G. GRAY. Mr. HARLE, Mr. Ald. HODGSON, the MAYOR, and Mr. CRAWHALL, spoke in favour of the original motion—which was carried; and on the motion of Mr. HARLE, certain additions were made to the Report.

The Council confirmed a Report of the River Committee, granting leave to Hawks & Co. to erect a quay at the South Shore.

Mr. Ald. HEADLAM gave notice of a motion on the subject of capital punishments, with a view to a petition to parliament for their abolition.

Miscellaneous business was transacted, and the meeting was adjourned to Wednesday, the 9th of October.

ADJOURNED INQUEST ON THOMAS ROBSON.

YESTERDAY (Sept. 13), at the Red Robin inn, Wrekenton, the inquiry was resumed by J. M. Favell, Esq., and the jury, into the circumstances connected with the death of Thomas Robson, of the Team (or Ravensworth) colliery, who was shot in the night of the 10th ult., as stated in our paper of the 17th.

John Thompson, police-officer, deposed that he received information of the affair about 4 o'clock on the morning of the 11th of August, and proceeded to the potato-field in which the body was found. Measured the footmarks in the potato-field, and also in the wheat-field adjoining. Observed a place in the hedge where a person appeared to have been sitting. The impression was very slight. It was about 10 or 12 yards south from where the body was found. Picked up some paper—part of which was hanging on the hedge, and part lying about two yards off, on the ground. It was blue sugar-paper. [Paper produced.] The two pieces were both singed, as if fired from a gun, and had no doubt been used for wadding. Proceeded along the hedge, and found a second impression, 19 yards north of where the body was found. This impression was also *very* slight, and appeared as if a person had been lying. The impression was not the length of a person, so that the legs must have been upon the headrig. The person's head had lain in the hedge, eastward. [By a juror: It did not appear as if a person had been lying two hours, nor that he had stirred.] Proceeded to the potatoes, and found a clear impression of a largish footstep. The person had been down on one knee and one hand. Measured the footmark. [Measure produced:—Length, 11⅜ in.; width of heel, 2½; width of instep, 3¾.] The person had been kneeling upon his left knee. The mark of the knee appeared to be quite smooth, as if made by cloth or fustian—not corded. Had tried an impression with corded trousers: the impression was quite plain, but on going back after a shower the impression was smooth. There was a little rain on the morning in question. Found the impression of the same foot and knee near where the body was discovered. Further south, near where the person was supposed to have been sitting who shot Robson, found the same impressions of foot and knee. The person had been, in each case, trying the potatoes. Traced a footstep through the place made in the hedge for a cart to go through, turning to the right, and over a hedge into the grass-field, by an ash tree. Thought this footstep was not so large as the one in the potato-field, where the potatoes were tried, but could not get a distinct impression. There were marks of "muds" in the footstep in the potato-field, both upon heel and toe; but no plates. Came up to near Mrs. Metcalf's, and found a track through the wheat-field, about 70 yards above where the person had gone into the grass-field. Traced it across the field, and found it proceeded from where the body was lying. [By Mr. Smith, a juror: Felt quite certain that this was the same mark as the one he had seen in the potato-field, made by the person who had been kneeling. Had no doubt whatever on this point.] The person had been running. Tried the potatoes, and found that a small quantity had been pulled up. Could never discover the impression of a *third* person in the potato-field. Traced two footmarks down the turnip-field, on the north side, to where they entered the potato-field. Measured them. One exactly agreed with the one in the potato-field, where kneeling: the other was larger, and a heavier-made shoe. The large footstep proceeded down the potato-field, across the fallow. Could not trace the other along the headrig. Found impressions of two persons, where Jefferson and deceased had crossed over the potatoes, at the south-east corner of the field. The larger one appeared to have been going first, as the smaller one was rather upon it. It was about ten minutes to 5 when witness got to the field. Could not say whether the smaller one agreed with the one which had crossed over near the foot of the wheat field. Was of opinion that the wound had been inflicted by a gun. Had tried experiments with pistols and guns.

William Hall, superintendent of police:—On the morning of the 11th of August, went to the place where Robson was found, between 8 and 9 o'clock. Was shown a footmark in the potato-field, 15 yards north-west of where the body was found. Measured it, and traced the same foot into the field adjoining. On the morning of the 12th, having some suspicion, witness proceeded to Mrs. Metcalf's, and asked for Fleck. Fleck was not in the house. Asked Mrs. Metcalf for a pair of Fleck's shoes. A pair of shoes was brought, and also a pair of boots. Measured the boots, and found the soles corresponded exactly with the measure he had taken of the footmark in the potato-field, excepting they were a little narrower across the sole. Believed, also, the soles were without muds, and had a half-plate on the heels. Examined the shoes, and they exactly agreed with the measure. Did not notice any muds on the soles. Searched for fire-arms. Found a double-barrelled gun, both nipples of which were completely covered with rust, and the lock of one barrel was broken. Found no shot. Proceeded to Gowland's at Wrekenton. Searched the house of the son first. Found two single guns, two cavalry-pistols, and two pocket pistols, the whole of which were rusty, and did not appear to have been fired for some time, being covered with dust. The cavalry pistols were clean, but the other had dirt caked about the pans. They were wrapped up in a silk handkerchief in a drawer. Proceeded to Jacob Gowland's. Found two guns, completely rusted, and had not been fired for some time. On the 11th, searched Richardson's house, the pitman to whom the four rows of potatoes belonged. Found a single-barrelled gun and two pocket-pistols. The gun was loaded; also one of the pistols—it had not been fired for some time. It was loaded with mixed shot—part No. 3, and smaller. It was wadded with blue paper, but of a different description to that found by Thompson. Next day, tried experiments with guns and horse-pistols at half-a-yard distance, and was convinced it must have been a gun that inflicted the wound. Had seen the shoes Fleck had on while witness was searching his aunt's house. They were strong shoes, and mudded. Merely saw them as he was walking with Fleck. Did not measure them. Thought they had heel-plates, but was not sure. Fleck stated to him, on the 26th, he had shoes on during the night in question. Fleck also stated that he never was amongst the corn that night.

Thomas Watson, police-officer:—Arrived at the colliery about a quarter-past 4 o'clock in the morning. Met a man coming out of the colliery-office whom he had since learnt was

Digitized by Google

Fleck, but did not know him at the time. Asked him to go and show him where the man was shot. He said there were many people along at the field, who would show him. Fleck then said that he heard the report of the pistol from the high end of the field above. Asked him if he went to the place. He said he did not: he went to the engine-house. Saw a quantity of blood on Fleck's trousers, and asked him how it came there. He said he found the body and took it up, and that the blood ran out of the bottom of Robson's trousers on to his. He asked witness if he thought he had better put them off. Said he had better do so, as they looked very bad. He went into the coal-shed, and Arthur pulled them off. He had another pair under. Asked his reason for having two pairs of trousers on. He said he was out on the Thursday night watching, and felt cold. Saw Jefferson, and asked if he could give any information. He said he could not recollect anything about it. Fleck had on a pair of laced shoes.

Mr. J. R. Wilson (a juror): Was there any direction given by the coroner, or by the magistrates, as to keeping any parties separate, or as to taking any one into custody?

Mr. Hall said he kept the parties in view until the arrival of Major Wemyss, who (with the coroner) thought there was not sufficient evidence to justify the apprehension of any one.

Mr. Wilson: Complaints have been made by the public on the point.

The Coroner: If there is any cause of complaint, let it be stated here. I care not for the complaints of the public. I act according to my own judgment, without paying attention to any one. It is not of the slightest consequence to me what the opinion of the public may be.

Margaret Hall deposed that she was servant with Mrs. Metcalf at the time Robson was shot. Fleck left Mrs. Metcalf's house that night at 9 o'clock. He had on a velvet square-lapped coat, corded trousers, Scotch cap without a peak, and laced-up shoes. He had a stick in his hand, and a dog following him. He had two pairs of trousers on, both corded. He returned about 7 o'clock on Sunday morning, Aug. 11. He had not been in the house during the night. A young man came to the house about half-past 5, and asked for Fleck and Yarrow. He said that Robson was shot in the potato-field. Yarrow came in about a quarter-past 6 o'clock. Never heard anything of any fire-arms. Yarrow told them about the man being shot. Fleck never mentioned it. Never saw anything but one gun in the house, which was never used while she was there. She only lived with Mrs. Metcalf a fortnight. Washed the trousers. The most of the blood was on the back of the left leg, and on the left coat-lap. There was some on the back part of the right leg also. Did not observe any on the front. There was also blood on the right shoulder. Left Mrs. Metcalf's on the following Sunday. Had said she left because Robson was shot so near, and there were so many stories about; but really left because her old master, Mr. Robinson, of Hagg House, had died, and the family sent the gig for her. Fleck was talking to Mrs. Metcalf near dinner-time about the shooting. Heard him say it was a bad job. Mrs. Metcalf ordered witness to wash the trousers. They had not been washed before.

William Yarrow (who was examined before) was recalled:—The pistol previously mentioned was about 5 inches long. When witness awoke in the engine-house, on the night in question, Humble and Stephenson were there. Asked where Robson and Jefferson had gone. They said they had gone to the potato-field. Witness said they had not: they had gone to the public-house. Robson and Stephenson were in the engine-house when Jefferson and witness went in. When witness awoke, went into the fire-hole, and found Arthur was there. Went into the engine-house again, and in a minute or two came out, and went along the waggon-way. Met Fleck at the corner of the potato-field, walking towards the pit. Fleck asked him if he had heard a shot fired. Said no. Told him that Jefferson and Robson had gone together to watch the potato-field. He said it was no use for him and witness to go—all was quiet: they would go to the engine-house. Fleck gave him a pipe and tobacco, and went on before him to the engine-house. Witness came out again directly, and saw Fleck upon the boiler wall. His pipe was then lit. They then went into the engine-house. Fleck never said anything about shooting any one in the potato-field. Was out two or three times. Fleck and witness stood at the door for some time, talking to Humble. Humble and Robson had been drinking together. Humble was in the engine-house with Fleck and witness. Witness proposed going along the bottom of the field himself. It was not Fleck who suggested that he should do so.

Margaret Coulson: On Saturday night, August 10, at about half-past 11, as near as she could guess, for she had no clock, she went to the door to throw out some water. Heard a whistle, and some one swearing. Saw John Fleck come down from Mr. Gowland's, with his dog. He seemed to be tipsy; for in going over the stile he nearly fell down. He lifted up his hand and said, "The first bloody union b****r he found trespassing on his ground, he would blow his brains out." He then proceeded homewards. He had a white hat on, and a roundabout coat. He had nothing in his hand. Witness had stood about half an hour before she heard the whistle. There was about ten minutes between the whistle and the swearing. She afterwards heard the report of a gun. Fleck seemed to be coming from Robert Gowland's.

Thomas Walton, policeman:—On Thursday, Aug. 15, went to the last witness's house, to hear what she knew of the matter. She made a statement similar to what she had done to-day, excepting as regarded the distance she was from Fleck. She pointed out the spot where she was standing, and where Fleck passed. The nearest point was 18 yards.

James Campbell, of Eighton Banks, pitman:—Was coming up Harlow-Green-lane, near the Coal-House-lane, on the 10th ult., at midnight, and heard a shot. Walked slowly up towards Jacob Gowland's. When between the asylum [Gowland's] and the blacksmith's shop, saw a man on the road between the houses of the two Gowlands, between the cartroad and the wall. Was only the breadth of the road off the man. The man never spoke. He appeared to have a roundabout coat on, but witness did not notice his dress particularly. He had a dog with him. Did not know the man, and had never stated it was Fleck. It was half-past 12 when witness got into his house.

Jonathan Melvin Pattison, farmer, Norwood:—On the Saturday after Robson was shot, had some conversation with Fleck in the corn-market of Newcastle. Asked him if it was possible Jefferson could have done it. He said that he (Fleck) took up some potatoes — Jefferson having stated that Yarrow had some herrings along at the engine-house. He did not state where he and Jefferson were when Jefferson told him about the herrings. Could not be mistaken as to his naming Jefferson, for witness remarked it particularly at the time. Mentioned it to several of the jury, and to others, immediately afterwards.

Ralph Coulthard, Wrekenton:—Had some conversation with Fleck about 7 o'clock on the morning of the 11th ult., in the potato field. Witness said he thought it strange Jefferson should lie so long after the shot. He said he had fainted. Witness observed, that after lying so long, he wondered he came out of the fit again. Fleck afterwards said Jefferson had had some drink, and had fallen asleep. He also said he was on the ground about the time Robson was shot; that he heard a noise upon the turnpike; that he went to see what it was, and during the time he heard a gun go off; that it was fortunate he did not go along the head-rig, or it might as well have been himself that was killed.

There being no other witnesses to examine, the coroner read over the evidence, and gave the jury the usual admonition to be guided by that alone, disregarding altogether the mere rumours which had reached their ears out of doors.

The jury retired at 25 minutes to 9 o'clock, and returned at 10 minutes to 11 with a verdict of WILFUL MURDER AGAINST SOME PERSON OR PERSONS UNKNOWN.

Lieut. John Shafto Hawks, Adjutant of the 7th Regiment, Native Infantry, we regret to say, died at Delhi on the 13th of June, "in consequence," as the Indian papers state, "of severe cold, caught when detached on service as second in command of irregular cavalry." "By his demise," says an eastern contemporary, "the service has lost a highly-intelligent and efficient officer, and his brother-officers a member of their society, whose uniform upright conduct and abilities justly secured for him their esteem and respect. By the men who volunteered and carried his remains to the grave, his loss is much felt." The deceased was in the 34th year of his age, and third son of the late John Hawks, Esq., of Gateshead and London.

Digitized by Google

THE WINDMILL-HILLS.

DINNER IN GATESHEAD TO ALDERMEN BROCKETT AND DAVIS.

THE public dinner given to W. H. Brockett, Esq., and Robert Davis, Esq., Magistrates of Gateshead, took place, as advertised, on Tuesday, September 17, 1844, at the Grey Horse inn. It was intended as a mark of general respect to these gentlemen, but more especially to evince how highly the public approved their conduct in connection with the late attempt to remove them from the Bench. The tables, as was anticipated, were crowded. The number that sat down was 101. W. L. HARLE, Esq., occupied the chair. On his right sat Alderman Brockett, Sir John Fife (Mayor of Newcastle), and Councillors J. D. Weatherley, R. P. Philipson, Cornelius Garbutt, Thomas Revely, S. Kent, and James Hymers. On his left, Ald. Davis, Alderman Wilson, and Councillors George Straker, Joseph Robson, and John Ormston. The vice-chairs were filled by JOSEPH COWEN, Esq., Chairman of the Gateshead Board of Guardians, and Mr. J. R. WILSON, one of the Councillors of the South Ward. Among the other persons present were Messrs. John Sowerby, John Davidson, D. Colvin, W. E. Brockett, Joseph Watson, J. Wilson (solicitor), J. B. Fife, H. Featherstonhaugh, John Harrison, W. Douglas, T. Murray, William Cook, F. Bennett, Philip Smith, R. Wyatt, John Beggs, Daniel Robson, jun., C. J. Pearson, T. Douglas, Thomas White, James Scott, T. E. Wilkinson, John Newton, William Young, Robert Gee, James Botcherby, John Dodgson, John Crimson, James Clephan, T. O. Small, T. H. Spence, John Robson, James Hewitt, B. Henderson, J. Clarke, F. Stanford, John Elliott, Robert Vernon, Thomas Aisbitt, Thomas Pringle, jun., T. S. Robson, W. N. Atkinson, James Wilson, Joseph Clephan, R. Geddes, W. Humble, T. J. Procter, J. F. Brett, James Brydon, Thomas Wilson, jun., Thomas Davidson, George Boyd, Robert Foreman, John Freeman, R. Robson, N. Ormston, N. Hann, J. Blagburn, Jonathan Robson, J. N. Warburton, John Nixon, William Joyce, John Usher, Robert Pratt, H. C. Calloway, Charles Dale, Joseph Fairs, John Dawson, Henry Angus, W. Henderson, J. Stewart, W. R. Ozwald, M. Aisbitt, Jacob Gowland, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. and Mrs. Blagburn's good dinner having been disposed of, the cloth was removed, and "*Non nobis, Domine*," sung by Messrs. Dawson, Robson, and Richardson. The Chairman read letters from Alderman Donkin, Councillor Smith, the Sheriff of Newcastle, Dr. Elliot, &c., expressive of their concurrence in the object of the meeting, and their regret that they were unable to be present. The toasts of "The Queen," "Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," and "The People," were then drunk in succession, and with appropriate honours and music.

The CHAIRMAN stated that his next toast was "The Army and Navy;" and he was happy that, in proposing it, he had the honour of standing between two gallant friends, military and naval. (Applause.) His friend Captain Weatherley had distinguished himself in the Peninsula in many a well-fought field. As to his friend Mr. Straker, he was not aware that he had ever fired a shot at an enemy; but he was sure of this—that if ever he were fired upon, he would most certainly fire back again. (Laughter.) He had much pleasure in proposing the Army and Navy, coupled with the names of Captain Weatherley and Mr. Straker. (Three times three.)

Capt. WEATHERLEY briefly returned thanks.

Mr. STRAKER said, it was true he had been, for a short time, in the naval service. He was in a ten-gun brig; and on king's birthdays, and the like, they made a great noise with gunpowder (laughter); but he was never in action. He was the son, however, of one who had fought the battles of his country, and was in many of the engagements for which England was renowned. (Applause.) With regard to himself, his friend the Chairman had said, that if an enemy were to fire upon him, he would be certain to fire back again. No doubt he would; but he could hardly take any credit to himself for that; for where was the Englishman — aye! or English*woman* either — that wouldn't? (Great laughter.)

Song, "England, Europe's glory."

The CHAIRMAN said that he had now to propose the toast of the evening—the health of his respected friends, Messrs. Brockett and Davis. (Enthusiastic and long-protracted cheering.) Mr. Harle briefly touched upon the circumstances out of which the dinner had arisen—the erection of the walls on the Windmill-hills—the appointment by the town-council of a committee to report upon the alleged encroachments on the public footpaths—the instructions given to the committee to remove the obstructions—the execution of the instructions by the committee and town-clerk—the overthrow of the whole of the walls by a number of the inhabitants—the memorial to the Home Secretary by the Boroughholders for the removal of Messrs. Brockett and Davis from the Bench—and the refusal by Sir James Graham of the prayer of the memorialists. The Gateshead "State prosecution," said the Chairman, was hardly inferior in interest and importance to that of Ireland. (Laughter.) In each there was a "monster indictment" (renewed laughter); and in Gateshead as in Ireland great ingenuity was exerted to make out a case of "conspiracy." The Boroughholders not only accused his friends, Messrs. Brockett and Davis, of conspiring with a "lawless mob" to knock down the walls, but fastened upon them the famous royal proclamation, and endeavoured to make them responsible for the subsequent outrage of the soldiery. (Laughter, and a cry of "The pitmen!") Yes! the pitmen's strike, too, was dragged in, to lengthen the monster indictment! (Laughter.) And the parallel of the two indictments held good to the end—for both of them had broken down. (Loud applause.) The Chairman spoke of the public services of Mr. Brockett and Mr. Davis, and concluded by proposing the toast—which was drunk with three times three tremendous cheers, and several cheers more.

Mr. BROCKETT rose amidst loud and general applause, and spoke as follows:—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for the kind and cordial welcome you have given to the toast which has been just proposed. I shall not occupy your time with any controversy of compliments with my friend in the chair; although I am quite aware that he has been tempted by his attachment to me to speak of me more flatteringly than I deserve. I shall not do so, because I consider we have more interesting and more important business on our hands. I am proud of this assembly, gentlemen, not because I regard it as a mere personal compliment to my friend Mr. Davis and myself, but because I look upon it as a great and valuable demonstration of public opinion—and as an inestimable evidence of your attachment to a great principle. (Applause.) True, I feel, and I am sure Mr. Davis feels, that the banquet and the reception with which you have honoured and greeted us are testimonials of esteem of which any man might justly boast; but we regard the proceedings of this evening as an exemplary declaration of right—as a proof to the world that the people of Gateshead—and the people of Newcastle, too, represented as they are, on this occasion, by their Chief Magistrate (loud cheers), and by some of the most eminent of their fellow-townsmen—are prepared to assert and maintain the principle that when an individual becomes a magistrate he ceases not to be a citizen and a man—and that his elevation to the judgment-seat requires neither the abandonment of his principles nor the sacrifice of his rights. (Loud cheers.) The extraordinary attack that has been made upon Mr. Davis and me, has thus been much more useful and beneficial than its promoters ever contemplated. It has elicited from the people of Gateshead, and it has also elicited from the government of the country, the important truth, that magistrates are neither required nor expected to turn their backs upon their principles and associates—or, in other words, to purchase the honour that is conferred upon them by abandonments of duty, or by breaches of fellowship with the hands that made them. (Cheers.) This, gentlemen, I regard as a very valuable result of the hostilities to which we have been exposed—a result much more important than even the adjustment of the Borough Question itself. Indeed, we do not meet here to discuss the Borough Question. It is a national question that has created this meeting; and the decision which you have pronounced, corroborated as it has been by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, will not be without its value, even in places far remote from the walls on the Windmill-hills. We must not blame, then, the eight prosecutors of Mr. Davis and myself too severely. They have rendered the State some service without knowing it; and they have assisted, also, in putting the public in possession of the merits of the Borough Property case, to an extent, and with an effect, which I am sure they neither desired nor expected. Their attempt—I mean the attempt which they were foolish enough to put their names to—to deceive Sir James Graham as to the Borough Property Question, enabled me to publish the antidote with the bane, and to tear away the veil

Digitized by Google

under which they had groped their way into the Home Office. And I am happy to say that many persons have informed me—among others, a gentleman of great legal eminence in Newcastle, (I am not referring to any gentleman present)—that they have learnt more of the merits of the case, since the replies to the Boroughholders were published, than they ever knew before. This, gentlemen, should plead as a set-off and a palliation of the conduct of our assailants. In remembering their intentional wrongs, we must not forget the involuntary benefits they have conferred upon us. Indeed, so far from regretting, I rejoice in the accusation which they made against us. I never dreamt they would go to such a length—never imagined that they would forget their proverbial wariness so far as to become the dupe of the longer and deeper head that concocted the conspiracy and induced them to engage in it. We can pity and forgive the instruments of the master-workman. We can afford—well afford—to overlook the follies of eight comparatively harmless beings, in rejoicing over the discomfiture of the crafty adversary behind them. (Loud applause.) It is not my purpose to trouble you with any details of the Borough Question, or with lengthy references to my conduct as a magistrate. I cannot, however, omit to mention, that I became a magistrate on the recommendation of my fellow-townsmen—the unanimous recommendation of the first town-council elected under the Municipal Reform Act. I accepted the office, so complimentarily conferred upon me, in the hope that I might justify the preference which had been shown me by an honest performance of my duty—by becoming, as far as in me lay, the defender of the weak and the resister of the strong. I have devoted to that duty a considerable portion of my time and what little talent I possessed; and I am proud to say, that the monster-indictment, as the Chairman has appropriately called it, of the Boroughholders, was the first complaint that I ever heard of against my conduct as a magistrate. And to complain of me as a magistrate in the affair of the walls, was just as ridiculous as it was malicious. Mr. Davis and myself appeared on the Windmill-hills, not as magistrates, but as members of the town-council. No magisterial formality was requisite to open out a few ancient footpaths—although such formalities were most necessary for the closing of them. The council, not we, were the objects whom right-minded and candid adversaries would have selected for attack. But such a warfare suited not the prompter of these proceedings. If he could not defeat the council, he thought he could strike a blow at us; and he paid the poor compliment, too, to Sir James Graham, to suppose that *he* would be glad to avail himself of the Boroughholders' indictment—of their dagger—for the punishment of a political opponent. Why, the insult to the Home Secretary was a thousand times more abominable than the attack upon my colleague and myself. There are two or three points, gentlemen, or *counts*, perhaps, I should call them (laughter), in the memorial of the Boroughholders, on which I purposely abstained from commenting in my reply, feeling that I could not do so without allusions to one or more of my colleagues on the bench, and feeling also that my case required no such ungracious aid. But now that the trial is concluded, and our acquittal has been so triumphantly pronounced, I feel no longer restrained from expressing my opinion on the passages in question. The first and most outrageous assertion is, that the Mayor remained in his house on the morning of the demolition of the walls, fully expecting a riot, and unwilling to interfere till the last moment, but prepared (mark! *prepared*) to act accordingly. Why, what a libel was this upon the chief-magistrate—a libel so gross and so infamous, that even had it not carried its own contradiction upon the face of it, I should have pronounced it, as I now pronounce it, to be an invention and a lie. (Applause.) In the first place, how did the memorialists know the feelings of the Mayor? Did he tell them that he had been waiting in his house, like a tiger ready to pounce upon his prey — waiting until "riot and perhaps bloodshed" should take place, and then ready to hurl upon the multitude the vengeance of the law? Impossible! And how was he prepared to act accordingly? Had he the police in readiness — had he notified to *them* that he fully expected a riot, and would require their services in its suppression? Or had he the soldiery (laughter), in the castle or at the barracks, ready to massacre the mob as soon as it was ripe for the sabre? I believe nothing of the kind. I believe the Mayor to be utterly incapable of even contemplating such an outrage. (Loud applause.)

Another point in the memorial to which I would allude is the insinuation thrown out that the attack made on the police in Gateshead by some soldiers of the 37th Regiment, shortly after the occurrences on the hills, was attributable to the demolition of the walls. I certainly was amused at this when I read it—because I remembered that such a remark had been made before, and I remembered the person who had made it. Now, gentlemen, had I felt disposed, I might have suggested to Sir James Graham a much more probable origin of the attack on the police. I might have told him that a certain magistrate, on a certain day, who had opposed the Mayor and myself, unsuccessfully, in our determination *to protect the police*, had rushed out of the police office, and, in the open passage-way, denounced the police as a "set of butchers," and added, confident in his power, that he would "have them all broke." (Hear.) Now is it not more probable that the soldiers were in the neighbourhood of the police-office, and had heard the denunciations of the disappointed justice, than that they should have been discussing the Borough Question (laughter), and examining the Windmill hills with a view to their conversion into a parade-ground? (Laughter.) And might it not be contended also that a sense of duty led to the attack on the police; for the military, you know, are bound to support the *civil* magistrate (laughter)—and how could they have more agreeably supported him than in soundly drubbing the "butchers" whom he had so patriotically and publicly denounced? All this I might have alleged, in answer to the insinuation that was thrown out; but I scorned to avail myself of an argument which, though better than my opponents', and involving a charge of unfitness a thousand times stronger than any that could be brought against myself, would have made me appear almost as childish as my accusers. (Loud applause.) But the most alarming announcement of the memorialists was, that the town was in a state of great excitement, and that the peaceable inhabitants were afraid to venture out of their houses. Why! gentlemen! what a miserable and melancholy prospect is here! "Oh! dear! what will become of us," should an invasion take place? (Laughter.) We have heard a good deal to-night of the Navy, and of guns and of boarding-pikes, but when the peaceable inhabitants of Gateshead are afraid to venture out of their houses during the demolition of a few dry walls, how can we expect them to venture out when the enemy is at the door!—There is only one other passage on which remark is necessary—but it is one highly characteristic of the complainants. Persons, totally unconnected with either the town-council or the Boroughholders—that is, persons totally unacquainted with the matter—declared, says the memorial, that they had never witnessed such *disgraceful* proceedings. This, I say, is highly characteristic of the Boroughholders. Persons unacquainted with the case are the very persons whose opinions they value. But, had Sir James Graham thought it necessary to inquire into the case, he would probably have preferred the opinions of a very opposite class—and have appealed to some one who *was* connected with the council, and who *was* acquainted with the case. Whether such person would have declared the *stealing* of the footpaths, or the *restoration* of the footpaths, the more disgraceful proceeding, we need not, I think, waste our time in considering. (Applause.) The reply of Sir James Graham, to all this unprecedented admixture of ignorance and spite, was precisely what I expected, and precisely, I am persuaded, what the legal adviser of the Boroughholders—I mean the legal adviser worthy of the name—would have told them, had they asked his advice. The Borough Question, they have been truly told, is not to be decided in the Home Office. Sir James Graham is not the judge by whom the rights of the people of Gateshead are to be defined; and so the eight gentlemen have learnt who were employed on the contemptible experiment of befooling him. It may be well to mention here, gentlemen, that *I* was the cause of Gateshead being inserted in a schedule of the Municipal Reform Act. I have no need of secresy; and this, it seems to me, is a proper occasion for telling you the origin of your town-council. The Boroughholders and their instruments have frequently insinuated that some government influence was used for this purpose; but they merely said so because they thought it would annoy their political opponents No government or any other influence was used. The history of the business is this:—Whilst the commissioners of corporation inquiry were conducting their investigation at Newcastle,

Digitized by Google

I, accompanied by a legal friend, waited upon them at their lodgings at the Queen's Head, and informed them that as they were appointed by the crown to inquire into the state of municipal corporations, and as I believed that such a corporation existed in Gateshead, I hoped they would feel justified in extending their inquiries to that borough. They answered that Gateshead was not included in their list of corporations, and therefore they would require a *prima facie* case to be shown them, of the existence of a corporation there, to justify their interference. I laid before them such evidence as I had collected—and they were satisfied. They issued their summonses to the stewards; and at the appointed hour the commissioners and the stewards, and several of the inhabitants of Gateshead, assembled in the vestry. There was considerable reluctance shown to give the commissioners any information; and a gentleman of the name of Hind, who was a Boroughholder, and had been a practising solicitor, protested strongly on the occasion against the idea of Gateshead being a corporation. At last, however, the commissioners were allowed to examine the contents of the iron-chest in the Anchorage. They told Mr. Hind that all they had seen and heard favoured the presumption that Gateshead was a corporation; but that if, on consideration, they should be of a contrary opinion, no use, of course, would be made of their notes, and nothing more would be heard of them. But something more *was* heard of them. The learned commissioners considered that Gateshead was a corporation; and the government, acting on their report, included it in the bill. Now I am quite ready to defend the course I took on this occasion. And it is strange and melancholy enough, that some of the Boroughholders—nay, some of the memorialists themselves—were tremendous advocates for a corporation—and tremendous advocates for the application of the bill to Gateshead—until they discovered that it was likely to interfere with their private interests. So soon as that deplorable probability was discovered, a corporation became the most odious and abominable thing imaginable, and its advocates were denounced just as loudly as they had been previously bepraised. (Applause.) To elucidate this part of the subject, I may mention that, not long after my reply to the "monster indictment" had been published, I met one of my accusers in the street. He had the modesty to stop me, and the following dialogue took place:—The complainant said, "Well! I see, sir, you have been making very free with me in your reply to the memorial to Sir James Graham?" "Yes," I answered, "I have. You made very free with me, you know; and I have followed your example." Complainant retorted, "Well! all you can say against me is, I have changed my mind." "Very likely," I replied, "but, you know, you cannot say the same of me." (Great laughter.) After this sample of the dialogue, gentlemen, I think it will not be necessary to continue it further. But, simple as this interview may appear to you, it unfortunately explains the whole secret of this miserable business. The real cause of quarrel with me is, *that I have not changed my mind.* I am to-day what I was yesterday:—I entertain in 1844 the same opinions which I professed in 1832. Had I swerved from those opinions—had I looked on interest instead of principle—had I regarded self as much as I have disregarded it—had I sacrificed on the altar of selfishness the associations of my earlier days — I would have been placed, perhaps, in a very different position from that which I now occupy—I should have been, very likely, a member of the "four-and-twenty!"—(loud laughter)—the only distinction which it is in the power of the Boroughholders to bestow. Instead of a town-councillor popularly elected—instead of a magistrate defending the public in their rights, and defended by the public in return, I should have been rewarded and bepraised to the poor extent of Boroughholder ability. But I thank my stars that I have been spared such a degradation—that I have been enabled to uphold the integrity of my principles, and to cultivate the consistent fellowship of my associates, without dishonour and without reproach. (Applause.) Had I imagined for a moment that the office of magistrate was to interfere with my free-will as a citizen—to deny me the common rights of Englishmen — to transform me from a freeman into a puppet — to compel me to repudiate the principles and to disgrace the memory of departed associates in the cause of freedom—I should have spurned the falsely-styled honour as an insult, and trampled the commission under my feet. (Loud cheers.) But it was never so intended. And the result of this pitiful conspiracy against my friend Mr. Davis and myself, proves that it never was; for however the Boroughholders may have flattered themselves to the contrary, they have found to their mortification that the evil spirit—the despotism — of faction and of party, has not yet reached the odious climax at which they hoped it had arrived, and that men in power, be they Tories or be they Whigs, have not yet dared, nor, as I fondly hope and believe, will they ever dare, for the gratification of a few revengeful and mercenary partisans, to outrage the great principles of British liberty and justice. (Great applause.) And now, gentlemen, let me congratulate you on the consequences, distinct from local matters, which may result from this glorious assemblage of the people of Gateshead. Depend upon it, gentlemen, there are many more places than Gateshead that have their "hills" and their "Boroughholders." To such places the proceedings of this day will be a guiding star. They will gather confidence from your success, and strength from the glorious victory you have achieved. It is not the value of the Windmill-hills of Gateshead alone, but of the fields, and greens, and commons of a hundred other communities, which is concerned in this struggle. We have conquered—but the fruits of our conquest will be gathered by millions of our countrymen. There is not a corner of the kingdom into which the proceedings of this day will not penetrate, and in which that penetration will not be useful. And it is not, I trust, too much to expect, that a sense of justice—or say liberality, if they will—may yet overtake the Boroughholders of Gateshead. Instead of creeping attempts at compromise, let us hope they will, at last, come forward like men and like Englishmen, confessing that they have been in the wrong, and determining, henceforth, to be in the right. (Applause.) Let us hope that, like Mr. Strutt and Sir Robert Peel, (but far more called upon than either,) they will now come forth from the selfishness in which they have so unwisely indulged, and give up with a good grace what they have so long withheld. What could be the difference to the wealthy Boroughholders of Gateshead, whether the question were compromised or not? Why, not above a few shillings in the year. Let them give up the property at once. The hills would make an *arboretum* quite as beautiful—nay, perhaps more so than that of Derby; and surely the example of Mr. Strutt and Sir Robert Peel—of men who, like the Boroughholders, have been indebted for their fortunes to the labours of their working countrymen—ought not to be lost upon the present possessors of the Windmill-hills. Let us hope, at least, that it may not; and that one consequence of the triumph which we are this night celebrating will be the immediate and unqualified relinquishment of the Borough Property to the uses of the public (Cheers.) I have detained you, I fear, too long—(cheers, and cries of "No, no!")—yet there is one question which I have often asked—which I have no doubt many of you have often asked—and which I shall endeavour to answer before I sit down. We have heard a great deal about who pulled down the walls—but we have never been satisfactorily informed as to who *built* the walls. This is an important question:—because the builders of the walls—or the persons to whom the Boroughholders had delegated such a power—are the real plaintiffs and prosecutors against Mr. Davis and myself. Now, to satisfy myself on this head, I addressed a note to Mr. Swinburne, a few days ago, requesting to be informed the date of the deed by which the property on the hills, &c., was conveyed by the Boroughholders to trustees. I requested to know also the names of the trustees, and whether the eight memorialists had signed the deed. To this letter I received an answer to the effect that the deed was dated April 30, 1840—and that it had been executed by Messrs. W Kenmir, James Pollock, W. Hymers, J. Lister, sen., J. Lister, jun., George Watson, Thomas Glaholm, James Honeyman, Forster Walker, and Nicholas Andrews—but not by George Wailes. Mr. Swinburne seems not to have understood that I wished for the names of the trustees, because he does not particularize them; but I found the names, nevertheless, in a document in my possession, dated December 5, 1840—which states that the subscribers thereunto were trustees under the trust deed duly empowered to convey the property to purchasers. These trustees, therefore, and no other persons, are the parties, and the only parties, responsible for the building of the walls. Messrs. Lister, Watson, Andrews, and Co., had nothing whatever to do with the property—they had sought refuge from their

Digitized by Google

difficulties under the wings of the trustees. And these trustees, gentlemen, I find were—"James Pollock, William Hymers, and John Lister." But as Mr. Pollock, disgusted by the proceedings of the Boroughholders some time ago, expressed, in my hearing, his determination to have nothing more to do with the trust, I, of course, exonerate him from any participation in the building of the walls. The remaining trustees, and, consequently, wall-builders—the real plaintiffs in the action—were William Hymers and John Lister. I have heard it whispered—but the thing is too atrocious to be credible—that one of these men sat in judgment upon Mr. Davis and me during the investigation. It is impossible—at least it is incredible—that any man, honoured, by the confidence of his sovereign, with the great prerogative of doing justice between man and man, should sit, as it has been insinuated that one of these trustees sat, as a judge in his own cause—and not only as judge, but as leading counsel, cross-examining the witnesses, and conducting the prosecution—imitating, in short, on a vulgar scale, both the chief-justice and the attorney-general of an Irish Court of Queen's Bench! (Hear, hear, hear.) I conclude, gentlemen, thanking you most sincerely for your kindness, in the hope that, for the sake of justice, and more especially for the sake of the Gateshead bench of justices, no such scene, as has been reported to have taken place, can have been allowed to occur within the precincts of the borough of Gateshead. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Davis was received on rising with general and hearty acclamations, and said:—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, after listening to the excellent speech of my friend Mr. Brockett, it would be presumption in me to attempt anything beyond a simple expression of thanks; but though I neither possess the talents nor the eloquence of my worthy friend, you must not for a moment suppose that I am less sensible of the honour you have done me. (Applause.) I assure you it gives me the greatest pleasure to see such a number of worthy and respectable gentlemen assembled here this evening—assembled to express their approval of our conduct, and to congratulate us on our escape from one of the most treacherous attacks that ever disgraced civilized society—an attack that can only be compared to that of the base and cowardly assassin. (Applause.) But fortunately, gentlemen, the injury and disgrace which they intended to inflict upon us, has recoiled upon themselves with tenfold interest. Sir James Graham has plainly given them to understand that he did not believe them. I dare say, gentlemen, you are all aware that I offered to prove that all the charges brought against me in the celebrated memorial were false—that they did not contain one word of truth from beginning to end. My accusers were prudent enough not to accept the challenge. Had they ventured to meet inquiry, I was fully prepared to prove that some of their leading men knew positively that the memorial was false when they signed it. But what could you expect from men who could commit such a heartless robbery upon the health and recreation of the industrious population of Gateshead? (Applause.) I certainly do regret the farcical exhibition at the Home Office on one account; for should the inhabitants of Gateshead, at any future time, find it necessary to apply to that office, I am afraid they will only be laughed at—as, I understand, the Gateshead memorial has been a fund of amusement amongst the juveniles of the establishment. (Laughter.) One thing I think it my duty to notice before I sit down—that is, the report or opinion that has got abroad, that Mr. Swinburne was a party to this discreditable transaction — that he was the writer of the memorial. I beg leave to state, that I know, from good authority, that Mr. Swinburne had nothing whatever to do with it. He declined the honour, though he was the Boroughholders' Secretary. (Loud and long-continued cheers.) I once more beg leave to thank you most kindly and sincerely, and to assure you that what has occurred will not turn me either to the right or to the left—that as long as I have a seat in the Gateshead town-council I will fearlessly do my duty. (Loud applause.)

Mr. N. Hann sung, with excellent effect, and amidst loud applause and laughter, the song of "The Windmill Hills," to the tune of "The Fine Old English Gentleman."

Aw'll sing ye a bran-new sang, myed by a bran-new poet,
That nivver in his life before a bit of poetry wrote;
And he wad nivver yet begun, if duty did not call
For him to raise his Muse, and sing about the Borough Wall, (laughter),
Like a true-hearted Gyetsider, all of the prizzent time.

Noo, ye maun ken, within a mile frae wor awd canny toon,
Some hills there is where we hev played and sported late and soon,
At steely elses and prison base, and racing up and doon;
And this was in wor schoolboy days, when oft we played the troon,
(laughter), Like mony another Gyetsider, &c.

'Twas there wor mothers dried wor elses, to keep us neat and clean,
That at the Sunday-school and church we might be decent seen;
And o' the Sunday afternuins, wor faithers talk us there,
To get the toon-stink blawn away, and snuff the country air, (laughter),
Like true-hearted Gyetsiders, &c.

And when to young men we grew up, wi' lasses we did gan
To walk, to talk of marrying, and whe should be wor man;
And mony a pleasant crack we had wi' lasses on their awills,
And mony a happy match was myed upon the Windmill Hills (laughter),
By Gyetside beaux and belles, &c.

Noo a road there was went ower the hills, to Bensham and the Tyems,
And folks they a'ways like to tyek the nearest to their hyems;
So when somebody built a wall, the folks went frae the toon,
And help'd our worthy Councillors to pull th' obstruction doon,
Like true-hearted Gyetsiders, &c.

Noo whe wad ivver think that plizzburs see as these
Should e'er be stopped by wall or dyks, these borough-men to please?
The man that wad submit tid, ne other than a slave is;
So we'll fill wor glass and drink success to Brockett and to Davis,
(laughter). So we'll fill, &c.

Mr. John Blagburn rose to propose the toast of "The Mayor and Corporation of Gateshead." (Cheers.) It must not be supposed, he said, that the dinner had been got up simply as a compliment to two private individuals. Highly as Messrs. Brockett and Davis were esteemed in that capacity, it was not to do them honour as men that they had met together, but as magistrates who, when the right of the public was at stake, had well and manfully done their duty to themselves and their fellow-townsmen. (Applause.) Nor would the burgesses of Gateshead rest from their labours with the present demonstration. November was nigh at hand (hear, hear), and none but anti-wallers (laughter)—none but Jerichoïtes (laughter)—must be sent to the town-council. No more wall-builders must be elected. (Laughter.) The great road over the Windmill-hills, he had heard compared to the road that Bonaparte made over the Alps. (Great laughter.) And he did think that the magnificent work of the Napoleon of Gateshead was comparable, in many respects, to that of the Napoleon of France; but there was this difference between the two—that the road over the Alps was passable. (Laughter.) And while Bonaparte's road still left room enough, and to spare, on the mountains, for sport and recreation, the Boroughholders' road almost covered the hills (laughter), and left little space for amusement. This was a sore deprivation for all, but especially for the Ranters, who were not over-well-off for places of worship, and made a sort of chapel-of-ease of the hills. (Roars of laughter.) The building of the walls was bad enough in itself, but every one knew that the encroachment was not to end there: the walls were only erected as a preliminary to the erection of houses. (Hear, hear.) In a short time, there would have been "building sites for sale;" although it was difficult to conceive how any person should be so foolish as to build without a title. He knew an old woman in Sunderland (laughter) who lost her house in a law-suit. It was afterwards offered for sale, and she cried out, "Whe's gaun te buy a stolen hoose, d'ye think?" So, when the Boroughholders offered their sites for sale, the inhabitants might ask, "Whe'll buy your stolen hills?" (Laughter.) The present popular demonstration would give the lie to the bold pretence of the Boroughholders, that all the "respectability" of Gateshead was on their side, and only the rabble against them. (Applause.) In conclusion, Mr. Blagburn proposed the toast—"The town-council of Gateshead—thanks to them for their unanimous resolution to restore to the public the footpaths over the Windmill-hills." (Three times three.)

Ald. Wilson rose to return thanks—(and with him rose, also, Aldermen Brockett and Davis, and Councillors Garbutt, Hymers, Revely, Robson, Kent, and Wilson). He was glad, he said, to see so close a community of feeling between the people and council of Gateshead, and he hoped that the latter would at all times be found prepared to maintain the rights of their constituents. (Applause.)

Mr. Revely, being loudly called upon by the company, also said a few words in reply to the toast. The memorialists, he observed, had paid a poor compliment to the town-council, when they accused them of becoming subservient to the private and selfish ends of one individual. Now what were the facts? The

Digitized by Google

appointment of a committee of inquiry was moved, as a matter of necessity, by one single member of the council. But the motion was unanimously adopted. It then devolved upon him, as the mover of the resolution, to name a committee; and no one could say that his selection was partial. First came the Mayor—who, he must say, being a Boroughholder, had acted most properly and discreetly in the matter. (Loud cheers.) The next was Mr. Garbutt—with whose opinions on the Borough Question, he was at that time perfectly unacquainted; but he had seen sufficient of him to know that he was one who would neither be led nor driven by any party whatsoever, but would always judge for himself, and act according to his own convictions. (Applause.) These were chosen from the West ward. From the East, he nominated Mr. Ald. Brockett, Mr. Potts, and himself; and from the South, Mr. Ald Wilson, Mr. Ald. Davis, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Edward; all of whom were perfectly disinterested gentlemen, living at a considerable distance from the hills; and he must say that the whole of the committee, and in particular Messrs. Brockett and Davis, were scrupulously anxious not to exceed the instructions of the council.

Song by Mr. GEDDES. "The Overseer."

Mr. GARBUTT proposed the toast of "The Mayor and Corporation of Newcastle." (Three times three and one cheer more.)

Sir JOHN FIFE, on rising to reply, was received with general and unbounded applause. Capt. Weatherley, Mr. Philipson, Mr. Straker, Mr. Ormston, and the Chairman rose at the same time. Sir John said, he thanked his friend for the direct and straightforward manner in which he had proposed the toast, and the company for the very flattering manner in which it had been received. He could most sincerely assure them for himself, and he believed also for his colleagues, that they required no thanks for their attendance, but felt themselves honoured by the privilege of being present, and participating with the inhabitants of Gateshead in doing homage to a great principle, and paying a merited tribute of approbation and gratitude to two of their fellow-townsmen. (Applause.) He warmly congratulated his old friend and political coadjutor, who had so long and so honourably been identified with the liberal cause in the borough of Gateshead, and also his private and professional friend Mr. Davis, on the compliment now paid to them by so goodly an assembly, but which, as had been well observed by a preceding speaker, was not paid to them simply as men, but as men who had stood between the public and the enemies of public rights. (Applause.) The man who diligently and honestly discharged the duties of his vocation, was entitled to the respect of his fellow-citizens; but if, in addition, he stepped out of his private walk in life, and did society some service, he deserved, not only the respect, but the gratitude of his fellow-men. (Applause.) He was glad to think that in this great country—(and Gateshead he should ever expect to see among the foremost—for he should remember to his latest existence her noble exertions in the memorable contest for the election of John George Lambton)—he was glad to think that Englishmen would never be wanting to support those of their countrymen who were ready to be victimized, if need be, in the cause of liberty. (Cheers.) He would, with the permission of the meeting, conclude with a toast. He hoped that there would ever be a friendly feeling between two such near neighbours as Gateshead and Newcastle, and that they would at all times cordially coöperate for their own and the nation's welfare. He hoped, also, to see them connected, not only by the ties of amity, but by the material and visible bond of a high-level bridge. (Loud cheers.) Trusting that the union between the two boroughs would be so cemented in a very short time, he would now propose "Prosperity to Gateshead, and a Close Alliance with Newcastle-upon-Tyne." (Three times three.) [Sir John Fife retired amidst loud acclamations.]

Mr. J. R. WILSON gave "The Bishop of Durham, and the Clergy and Ministers of his Diocese of all Denominations;" the CHAIRMAN, "Mr. Hutt, the Member for the Borough;" and Mr. COWEN, "The Chairman;" all of which were drunk with the usual honours.

The CHAIRMAN, in responding to the last of these toasts, stated that it was in Gateshead, and in that very room, that he first entered upon public life.

Song by Mr. HANE, "The Grand Balloon."

The health of "The Chairman of the Board of Guardians" was given by Mr. DAVIS, and acknowledged by Mr. COWEN.

Glee, "Hail, smiling morn."

Mr. JOHN ROBSON proposed "Justice to Ireland." (Loud and protracted cheers.)

Song by Mr. WYATT, "Steady."

Mr. BROCKETT proposed "The health of Mr. Philipson." (Three times three.)

Mr. PHILIPSON returned thanks.

Mr. Ald. WILSON gave "The Vice-Chairmen." (Applause.) The merits of the Chairman of the Board of Guardians, he said, were known to all. The other vice-chairman was his friend and neighbour, Mr. Reed Wilson; and he could truly say of him, that he was never wanting when a good turn or a kind action was to be done. (Three times three.)

Mr. J. R. WILSON replied, and proposed "The Committee of Management, Mr. W. Cook, Mr. T. Pringle, jun., &c."

Mr. COOK returned thanks, and said, the promoters of the dinner had been actuated by the purest of motives. They cherished no ill-feeling towards the Boroughholders individually, but simply came forward to carry out a great principle. He was glad that the demonstration had been so remarkably successful. It showed beyond all doubt and cavil the estimation in which Messrs. Brockett and Davis were held by the people of Gateshead, and gave the lie to the mischievous slanders which had been propagated at a distance. (Applause.) For himself he had seldom spent a more pleasant evening, and he again thanked the company for the manner in which they had drank the health of the committee. (Cheers.)

Mr. JOSEPH ROBSON said he would propose the health of the oldest Gatesider present—Mr. George Straker. (Loud and long-continued cheers.) Mr. Straker had told them, on a former occasion, how he had played on the Windmill-hills in his schoolboy days; and he (Mr. Robson) had no doubt that the worthy veteran would yet live to see the hills converted into gardens and playgrounds, and restored to the public. (Loud applause, followed by three times three.)

Mr. STRAKER, in reply, repeated his declarations of attachment to Gateshead. It was the home of his youth—the place in which the bones of his father and mother reposed—and he had returned to live in it in his old age, and would always be glad of an opportunity to render the old borough a service. (Applause.)

Capt. WEATHERLEY proposed the toast of "Mrs. Brockett and Mrs. Davis, and the Ladies of Gateshead." (Three times three.)

Mr. BROCKETT returned thanks; and one or two other toasts having been given, including "Mr. James Clephan and the Liberty of the Press" (by Capt. WEATHERLEY), "The Coal Trade," and "Our Next Merry Meeting," the company broke up.

THE WINDMILL-HILLS.

THE verdict of the public meeting of the inhabitants of Gateshead, convened by the Worshipful the Mayor, has been confirmed by a second assemblage of our fellow-townsmen. A dinner was given on Tuesday evening to Messrs. Brockett and Davis, at which a hundred persons were present, including the Mayor of Newcastle, and several Councillors and other influential gentlemen of the two boroughs, with a whole host of respectable and independent burgesses.

The meeting and the dinner, and the absence of any public demonstration on the other side of the question, leave no room for doubt as to the sentiments of the people of Gateshead on the Borough Question, and on the recent proceedings of the Boroughholders.

Those ill-advised proceedings have been most disastrous to their authors. They have had the effect of making every inhabitant of Gateshead fully acquainted with the question at issue, and as fully determined to resist every encroachment on the Windmill-hills, even the very slightest, in the time to come.

It must now be evident to every one of the Boroughholders, that the hills cannot possibly, under existing circumstances, be applied to purposes of profit; and the sooner those circumstances are changed, the better for all parties. The property in dispute is admirably adapted for play and pleasure grounds, and, so applied, would be a source of perpetual enjoyment to the inhabitants. At present, it is fruitful in discord and division.

Digitized by Google

We trust that some means will be adopted of bringing the Boroughholders and our other townsmen into friendly negotiation. In that event, an arrangement, if we are not very much mistaken, would be effected with little difficulty, calculated to "sweeten the breath of society" in our borough. The Boroughholders, we are sure, must wish with ourselves that Gateshead was "well rid" of that bone of contention, the Borough Question. The time is now favourable for its final settlement; and the opportunity should not be disregarded.

The Duke of Cambridge, the Hereditary Grand Duke of Mecklenburgh Strelitz (son in-law, we believe, of his Royal Highness), with Baron Knesebeck, arrived in Gateshead on the evening of Sept. 13, about 6 o'clock, by the Newcastle and Darlington Railway, on a visit to Lord and Lady Ravensworth. His lordship and the Hon. T. H. Liddell were in waiting at the railway-station, to receive their Royal Highnesses, and accompany them to the castle—where there was a select dinner-party to meet the royal guests. The train in which their Highnesses travelled comprised four private carriages. The Duke and Grand Duke, it is understood, will go forward to Scotland on Monday, to visit the Duke of Buccleuch at Dalkeith Palace; and will afterwards visit several other members of the Scottish nobility. To-day (Saturday), they will probably inspect several of the principal manufacturing establishments on the Tyne.

Gateshead British School.—The annual meeting and examination took place on Thursday, Sept. 12, in the long room of the Grey Horse inn, (William Kenmir, Esq., in the chair). There was a numerous attendance of our neighbours—chiefly ladies. The boys read the scriptures, and were examined by their master (Mr. Parker) in geography and mental arithmetic. At the close of the examination, the Secretary read the Report of the Committee, showing that the daily attendance at school amounted on an average to 120 boys; and that the institution (thanks to the bazaar) had money in the bank. The girls' school, it was stated, had been closed, owing to the unwholesomeness of the room in which it was held; but the committee hinted that a second appeal to the public would probably be made, to enable them to add to their reserved fund, and erect a building for both boys and girls. The report was received and adopted, and (on the motion of the Rev. Mr. Pullar, seconded by Mr. Mather,) a committee appointed, consisting of Mr. Hutt, M.P., President, Mr. W. H. Brockett, Vice-President, the Rev. Messrs, Pullar, Hine, Forsyth, Stoney, Rouse, and Anderson, and Messrs. H. Brady, T. Swinburne, H. Walker, W. Rowntree, R. Garlick, Joseph Clephan, Charles D'Anson, John Fawcett, C. A. Windeatt, and Thos. Morland.—The Rev. Mr. Forsyth moved a vote of thanks to the Bishop of Durham, Mr. Hutt, Mr. Cuthbert Ellison, Mr. Ralph Carr, Mr. J. W. Williamson, Mr. R. C. Forster, and the other donors and subscribers; which being seconded by Dr. Jollie, was carried unanimously.—Thanks were voted to the Mayor by acclamation, on the motion of Mr. Vickers; and his Worship, in acknowledging the compliment, expressed the gratification which he had derived from the proceedings of the evening, and observed that the examination reflected infinite credit on the master of the school.

Cheap Railway Trips.—The train from Darlington, on Sunday, Sept. 8, consisted of 41 carriages and 3 engines, bringing passengers respectively at 3s. 6d., 2s. 6d., and 1s. 6d. About 800 came to Gateshead and Newcastle, 200 to Sunderland, and 200 to Shields. Many of the passengers travelled in third-class carriages, and had a ride of about a hundred miles for eighteenpence!—On Monday, Sep. 16, there will be a trip to the Tees, the Wear, and the Tyne, from the Ouse at York. Fares, to and fro, 5s., 4s., and 3s.!—On Tuesday, there will be a second trip from Darlington to Newcastle, Sunderland, and Shields, on the same terms as on the 8th inst.—And in a week or ten days, (probably on Monday week,) there will be a trip from Gateshead, Newcastle, &c., to York, at 5s., 4s., and 3s.

Newcastle and Berwick Railway.—It is now well known that there are two projects in the field—which may be briefly described as Mr. Hudson's and Lord Howick's. The shares in the former line are stated to be all taken. The projectors of the other line—the atmospheric—are actively promoting its reception with the public; and Mr. Brunel and Mr. T. Sopwith are now surveying the country through which it is to pass. One great difficulty stands in the way of all parties—of the locomotive and the atmospheric advocates alike:—viz., the passage from the county of Durham into and through the town of Newcastle. A "high-level bridge" there must be. But where shall it be erected? and is the railway, on leaving the bridge, to run through Newcastle on the surface, or under it by tunnel? If by a tunnel, is its northern terminus to be at the Town Moor or in Pandon Dean. The tunnel—(to borrow a joke which is almost "used up")—will be a "great bore;" and travellers who pass through it can hardly say that they have been "*in* Newcastle." It will encourage, indeed, the Cockney delusion, that Newcastle is nothing more than a huge coal-pit! The tunnel will never do: our engineers must find their way *through*, not *under* the town.—One of them proposes to erect a stone bridge from Greene's-field, Gateshead, to the Castle-garth, Newcastle; with a branch-bridge over the Side (near about Mr. Young's shop), and over Pilgrim-street, to the Newcastle and North Shields Railway. This is the likeliest project—if the railway *must* intersect the site of Newcastle; which some folks think by no means an imperative arrangement—seeing that it may just as well go to the east or the west of the canny old town. We believe we must leave the Future to decide the question.

The Miners.—A late parliamentary inquiry shows the number of miners employed in Great Britain, viz.:—

Coal mines	118,233
Copper ditto	15,407
Lead ditto	11,419
Iron ditto	10,949
Tin ditto	6,101

Of which number 2,662 are females of twenty years and upwards, and 2,628 under that age, employed in Great Britain and the British isles; while in Scotland the numbers respectively are 440 and 403. Of persons employed in the manufacture and working of metals, there are (besides the miners):—

Iron	29,407
Copper	2,126
Lead	1,293
Tin	1,320

GATESHEAD MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

W. B. SCOTT, Esq., of the Government School of Design, established in connection with the North of England Society for the Promotion of the Fine Arts, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, will on WEDNESDAY EVENING NEXT, Sept. 25, (at the request of the Committee,) deliver an ADDRESS on the APPLICATION of a KNOWLEDGE of the FINE ARTS to INDUSTRIAL PURSUITS, in the Library of the Gateshead Mechanics' Institute, commencing at 8 o'clock.

G. S. DIXON,
JOHN FAWCETT, } Secretaries.

TO MESSRS. GEORGE HAWKS, WILLIAM H. BROCKETT, CHARLES BERTRAM, ROBT. DAVIS, AND JOHN GRACE, JUN., ESQUIRES, MAGISTRATES OF THE BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

WE, the undersigned, most respectfully hope and trust you will be able to make it convenient to attend the Adjourned Licensing Meeting for the Borough, on Tuesday next, Sept. 24th, and that you will be pleased to take our respective cases into consideration, as we have very strong reasons to be dissatisfied with the proceedings on the 6th September last, two Magistrates only being present—one of them much interested, and the other his particular friend.

We are, Gentlemen,
Your obedient, humble Servants,
JAMES N. WARBURTON,
JAMES M'INTYRE,
C. J. PEARSON,
ANTHONY HEADLAM,
JOHN HUDSON,
JOSEPH BOWLT.

Gateshead, Sept. 20th, 1844.

Digitized by Google

THE GATESHEAD TOWN COUNCIL.

p WILLIAM KENMIR, Esq., Mayor.

ALDERMEN.	COUNCILLORS.		
Barras, John	Bertram, C.	Hymers, J.	Robson, D.
p Brockett, W. H.	p Cummins, T.	Kent, Samuel	p Robson, J.
p Pollock, James	Dunn, Charles	p Lister, J., sen.	p Smith, James
Sowerby, G.	p Edward, J.	p Lister, J., jun.	Sowerby, T
p Wilson, Thos.	p Garbutt, C.	Potts, John	p Wilson, J. R.
p Davis, Robert		p Revely, T.	Wylam, Ralph

[Those marked p were present.]

THE town-council met by adjournment on the 2nd of Oct.—The TOWN CLERK read the minutes of the preceding meeting, and letters acknowledging the receipt of the addresses to the Queen and Prince Albert on the birth of a prince. Mr. Kell also stated, that the Auditors, after going through the borough accounts, had declared a balance due to the Treasurer of £67 odd. It had been thought that the balance was on the other side; and the Council, it will be remembered, were thereby induced to vote the payment of a debt. But the Auditors, in going through the accounts, discovered that the Treasurer had committed an oversight in arithmetic to his own prejudice.—Ald. DAVIS inquired if the Treasurer would not feel offended at the town-council, if they placed more faith in the Auditors than in himself? (Laughter.)

The order for payment of the debt was suspended.

The minutes of the Railway Committee were read, showing how the Brandling Company stood with the corporate body. The former having agreed that matters in dispute should be referred to arbitration, the claims of the latter were drawn up, and submitted to the directors, that they might point out those which they disputed; after which, the Council would appoint an arbitrator. The railway-secretary subsequently intimated that the directors had made choice of Mr. N. Wood as their arbitrator. The Town Clerk, in reply, reminded them that they had not yet distinguished between the claims which they admitted and those which they disputed; and they had never taken the slightest notice of the communication.

The MAYOR observed, that it was of a piece with their conduct from beginning to end. They blinked and evaded everything.

Ald. BROCKETT: The bridge in West-street is almost as great a nuisance as ever: it is continually dripping in wet weather. We shall get no satisfactory settlement with the company, except by law.

The MAYOR: Yes—it must come to that. They treat, not merely us, but the people whom we represent, very contemptuously.

Mr. GARBUTT said, it was evident the company had no disposition voluntarily to concede the just claims of the public; and it was very desirable to effect a settlement before the old company ceased to exist, and thereby avoid any unpleasant collision with their successors. He would therefore move that the Railway and Town Improvement Committees be empowered to take the necessary steps for enforcing the rights of the corporation.—Seconded and passed.

From a Report made by the Town-Improvement Committee, it appeared that the large open drain, running from East Bailey-chare to Cannon-street, had been cleaned out, for the first time within the memory of the "oldest inhabitant." On the motion of Ald. BROCKETT, it was referred to the Commitee to ascertain and report the expense of covering the drain.

Mr. CUMMINS brought forward a motion on the subject of St. Mary's church-clock. He proposed that the borough-fund should contribute £40 towards its repair and illumination. What more was required could readily be raised by subscription in Gateshead and Newcastle.

Ald. DAVIS said he would second the motion, if Mr. Cummins would include a grant towards the purchase of a clock for St. John's, Gateshead Fell. (Laughter.)

At the suggestion of one or two members, Mr. CUMMINS postponed his motion to the next meeting.

Ald. BROCKETT observed, that he had given notice of a motion touching the removal of the quays in the High-street. His proposal was, that the Council, in certain cases, should undertake their removal; and he had selected, as a beginning, a quay as to which, he had thought, there could be no difference of opinion. But an opponent of his motion had started up in a very unexpected quarter, the gentleman in possession of the property having expressed his unwillingness to have the change effected. He had two or three objections to the motion, but the principal one seemed to be, that so long as the quay stood he had a good look-out, both up the street and down. (Laughter.) He (Mr. Brockett) had no wish, of course, to interfere with the innocent enjoyments of any gentleman, and would therefore withdraw his motion.

The MAYOR, in compliance with a communication which he had received from Ald. Davis, produced a copy of the evidence taken by the Magistrates in the affair of the "walls," and asked him if he wished to have it read.

Ald. DAVIS replied in the affirmative. He had not seen it, he said, before it was sent off to Sir James Graham, and was anxious to know the nature of it.

The TOWN CLERK read the voluminous depositions; and on the motion of Ald. BROCKETT, it was resolved that they be entered on the minutes of the Council.

Ald. DAVIS said, he had been reported to the Home Secretary by eight of the Boroughholders, and recommended to dismissal from the bench, on certain grave and weighty charges, affecting his character as a man and a magistrate. Those charges were utterly false; and he took the opportunity of saying so, publicly, and to the face of his accuser, Mr. Lister. Let him produce the evidence on which his accusations were founded. Those accusations, he repeated, were false; and he defied Mr. Lister to prove that they were true.

[There was here a significant pause; but neither the elder nor the younger Mr. Lister said a single word in reply.]

Ald. BROCKETT said, he had nothing to add to the letter which he had addressed to the Mayor in reply to the memorial of the Boroughholders. In that letter he had expressed his conviction that his Worship would fairly and impartially investigate the charges preferred against Ald. Davis and himself; and he was therefore not surprised to find that he had done so. The Mayor had acted just as honourably as he expected.

Ald. DAVIS expressed his full concurrence in the observations of Ald. Brockett.

The MAYOR said, he was gratified by the admission of his impartiality. He had no purpose to serve in the investigation; and if he had, he should not have chosen such an opportunity of effecting it. He had done no more than his duty, and he hoped he should never do less. (Applause.)

The TOWN CLERK stated, that the town-councillors who went out of office on the 1st of November were:—East Ward, Messrs. James Hymers and Charles Dunn; West, Messrs. W. Kenmir and Thomas Cummins; and South, Messrs. T. Sowerby and D. Robson. On the 9th of November, three aldermen would retire, viz., Messrs. Barras, Brockett, and Davis.

Mr. REVELY gave notice of a motion on the subject of the Windmill-hills.

Miscellaneous business was transacted (including the imposition of watch and street-act rates), and the proceedings terminated.

THE WINDMILL-HILLS.

NOTICE of a motion on this subject has been given in the Gateshead Council. We are not sure that this is the best course that could have been adopted. On the contrary, we are inclined to think that the inhabitants themselves, in public meeting, could better promote the contemplated object than their representatives in the council-chamber. This, however, is mere matter of opinion.

We have had sent to us, through the postoffice, an amusing handbill from the *Newcastle Journal* press, citing a clause from an Act of Parliament, giving power to the Boroughholders to "stop up" or "divert" any path or paths over the Windmill-hills, "with the consent or approbation of two or more Justices of the Peace for the county of Durham," in such manner as the said Justices "certify may be done without prejudice or inconvenience to the person or persons having a right of way or passage over and along such last-mentioned ways or roads." This clause is actually adduced to "establish, beyond a doubt, the legal right of the Boroughholders to close up and divert the footpaths on the Windmill-hills, *as they did recently*." That is, *without* the "consent or approbation of two or more Justices of the Peace!"

What good can come of argument with men who reason so ridiculously? who set reason and justice alike at defiance? They well know—the Lord of the Manor knows—the late respected Rector of Gateshead knows and will avouch (or we

Digitized by Google

are grossly mistaken)—that on the division of the town-fields of Gateshead, the Windmill-hills were expressly set apart for the use and enjoyment of the inhabitants in all time coming. Indeed, the very clause in question, so suicidally adduced by the Boroughholders, declares the fact. It reserves the hills from allotment and enclosure, and vests them in the Gateshead Corporation—the Boroughholders and Freemen—for the "free use" of the inhabitants.

If, however, the inhabitants of Gateshead acted illegally in throwing down the walls on the Windmill hills, the Boroughholders have a ready remedy. They will have no difficulty in identifying scores of their neighbours, who took part in the "outrage." There is no disposition to evade the responsibility of the act. Why, then, do the Boroughholders shrink from an appeal to a court of justice? It is of no use to go to the "HOME OFFICE" or the "JOURNAL OFFICE." They must go to the office of their attorney, and instruct him to proceed against their adversaries; otherwise the public will infer, and rightly infer, that they are conscious of the rottenness of their case.

The evidence which was sent up to the Home Office—(and which was no sooner received, than a letter was sent down to the Mayor, flatly refusing to comply with the Boroughholders' memorial)—was produced and read on Wednesday last, at a meeting of the Council, by desire of Alderman Davis, and entered on the minutes by desire of Alderman Brockett. Notwithstanding the "leading questions" which had manifestly been put to the witnesses, "the prosecuting counsel" had been unable to make out a tolerably decent case. None of those "men in buckram," the "peaceable inhabitants, obliged to remain in their houses, afraid to venture out," were placed in the witness box, to make oath to their terror and timidity; not one of those bolder burgesses, "totally unconnected with either the Town Council or the Boroughholders and Freemen, who were obliged by their avocations to pass that way during the work of demolition," and "declared that they had never witnessed such disgraceful proceedings," was presented for examination in support of the memorial; nor did any one of the witnesses establish the calumnious assumption, that but for the prudence of the Boroughholders, "a general riot, and probably bloodshed, would have taken place!" It was proved that the Committee carried out the instructions of the Council, and then withdrew; and that the people (which no one denies) afterwards threw down the whole of the walls. They had a perfect right to throw them down; which, if the Boroughholders doubt, let them bring the question to an issue before a competent tribunal.

Alderman Davis, whose conduct all through this transaction deserves the highest praise, rose up in his place after the depositions had been read, and told Messrs. Lister to their face, in the presence of the whole Council, that they had put their names to charges as false as they were calumnious; and he publicly challenged and defied them to make good their accusations.

Will it be believed? the two Boroughholders, so ready to affix their signatures to a secret memorial, had not one single word to say in the presence of the gentleman whom they had maligned, and whom, as a Magistrate, they had sought to degrade and to destroy. They were publicly charged with falsehood, and were silent. They were challenged to sustain their accusations, and they held their tongues. There can be but one opinion as to the position in which their silence placed them. Their humiliation was complete.

THE WINDMILL HILLS.

THE following letter, on the subject of the Windmill Hills, is published at the request of Mr. Brockett who desires us to notify to our readers that he gives the letter publicity, not for the mere purpose of corroborating his own opinions on the subject, but in the hope that the kindly expressed sentiments of one who, as Rector of Gateshead, enjoyed for so many years the well-deserved esteem of his parishioners, may have its due weight with the boroughholders, on whom now depends, at least the peaceable carrying-out of Mr. Collinson's early and admirable project for the benefit of the people of Gateshead:—

Boldon Rectory, September 28, 1844.

DEAR SIR,—I believe I have to thank you for a printed copy of certain letters to Sir James Graham and to the Mayor of Gateshead concerning the destruction of some walls on the Windmill Hills.

I have a clear recollection that on the division of the town or borough lands (I think in 1815) it was one of the conditions that the surface of the Windmill Hills should be left open and free for the use of the inhabitants. I remember walking up there with Mr. Ellison, Mr. Askew, Mr. Headlam, Mr. Harvey, and some other gentlemen, together with Mr. Willis, for the purpose of securing this object.

Among my visions of future projects for Gateshead, if I had remained among you, one was to have enlarged that recreation ground on the Windmill Hills, for the use of the inhabitants, the aged, the poor, children and mechanics; to have had flowers, and plantations, and seats; and to have taken in that old quarry, belonging to Mr. Askew (which is of no great value), from whence is one of the most beautiful sunset views in this island. Every where they are now laying out such open spots near populous places for the benefit of the inhabitants. The money is, in my opinion, most wisely spent; not only in promoting health and cheerfulness, by air, exercise, and amusement, in a pleasant spot; but because I believe such agreeable views of nature have insensibly a great moral and religious effect.

I would also have had a place set apart for cricket and manly games, and should have rejoiced to have seen my sons and grandsons playing with the "coaly" children of the labourers. We have got too much into separate classes, and the labouring class only see the richer as masters and magistrates, to receive orders, and reprimands and punishments. Who can wonder that repulsion and dislike grow up on both sides?

If party differences could be put an end to in Gateshead, and obliterated, I should rejoice if such a plan as I have sketched out could be brought to practical effect; and if a subscription of money would avail to this end, I should gladly put my name down for ten pounds—for auld lang syne. I remain, Dear Sir, faithfully yours,

To. W. H. Brockett, Esq., Gateshead. JOHN COLLINSON.

DREADFUL COLLIERY EXPLOSION,

AT HASWELL.

WITH sincere pain we have to record a most dreadful accident, which occurred at Haswell colliery, near Easington, in this county (belonging to Messrs. Plummer, Taylor, & Co.), on Saturday afternoon, September 28, by which 95 human beings lost their lives. The cause of the explosion is yet unexplained—except by conjecture—as the pit seems, by all accounts, to have had as complete a system of ventilation as any in the north of England. The men, it seems, were just preparing to leave their work [in the Little Haswell pit] when the explosion took place, and left not a single survivor to tell the tale of woe. As may be imagined, the grief of the relatives, and the pity, deep and universal, of the neighbourhood, formed a picture which was fit to appal the stoutest heart. Among the sufferers, unfortunately, there are many members of the same families—fathers, sons, and brothers having been doomed, by death's sad havoc, to one common grave. The following are the names of the sufferers, with their ages. Those marked thus * were buried at Gateshead, the remainder at Easington, Hallgarth, and South Hetton:—George Bell* (31), Joseph Bell (28), John Brown (42), Thomas Briggs (61), John Briggs (25), James Briggs (10), William Barrass (32), John Barrass (10), Thomas Bottom (17), John Brown (17), John Curley (30), Michael Cleugh (14), Henry Cleugh (12), Matthew Cleugh (10), John Curry (39), Robert Carr (26), Robert Douglass (32), William Dixon (16), John Dixon (15), Mark Davison (16), George Drydon (18), Robert Drydon (16), James Drydon (25), Thomas Drydon (22), William Dobson (50), George Dawson (53), Wm. Davidson* (26), William Dixon (46), John Dixon (21), William Elsdon (22), George Elsdon (18), John Ferry (35), George Ferry (14), William Farish (20), Joseph Gibson (50), John Gibson (22), Robert Gibson (15), William Gibson (12), William Gilroy (16), John Gilroy (13), George Hall (38), Robert Hall (12), Robert Hogg (20), George Heslop (20), William Harrison (13), John Harrison (13), John Hall (10), William Jobling (29), Daniel Lemmon, James Laylands, Henry Mather (19), Thomas Moody (25), Joseph Moffatt (25), James Maughan (23), John Noble (40), Thomas Nicholson (16), William Nicholson (11), William Nicholson (18), John Padley (28), John Parkinson (28), Elliott Richardson (38), John Richardson (14), James

Digitized by Google

Robson (11), Robert Rosecamp (33), William Rosecamp (22), George Richardson (29), Peter Robinson (17), William Routledge (18), James Richardson (41), Ralph Surtees (19), John Surtees (17), William Surtees (12), James Sanderson (43), John Sanderson (24), Wanless Thompson (55), Christopher Teasdale (21), John Teasdale (19), Stephen Teasdale (17), Michael Thurlawey (18), William Taylor* (21). Thomas Turnbull (22), Henry Ward (39), John Williamson (34), Robert Williamson (19), John Wolfe (25), Peter Wolfe (20), John Willis (20), Thomas Willis (18), John Willis (12), Henry Wheatman (42), William Wheatman (14), John Whitfield (31), and John Whitfield (10).

An inquest was held (September 30) by T. C. Maynard, Esq., at the Railway Tavern, Haswell, on the bodies of five of the sufferers, viz., Thomas, George, Robert, and James Drydon, four brothers, and Edward Nicholson, their cousin. Mr. Marshall, solicitor, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Jude, and Mr. Cleugh, a relative of some of the sufferers, were present, on behalf of the owners and the men.

Cornelius Brown, an under-viewer deposed that he went down the pit on the afternoon of Saturday, in company with Mr. Scott and others, and found that an explosion had taken place. The explosion was in the ninth head-way course of the Meadows way. Saw that a "jud" had been drawn there by the overman. A jud is part of a pillar of coal, left to support the roof after the working, and is afterwards removed; thinks that this was the cause of the explosion, the effects of the fire being more visible there than in any other part. Three men were found dead there. Did not find their Davy Lamps. Saw nothing which indicated the cause of the explosion. A deputy named Williamson, had been in the act of taking the jud away, and was found dead within 20 yards. He had been at work at the jud when the explosion took place. The gas in some cases pours out in considerable quantities on the removal of coal, without previous notice. That part of the pit was worked by Davy Lamps—there was not a candle. He considered the pit one of the safest pits in the trade. Had known it from its commencement up to the 14th of August. Was in it for about three months almost daily. He thought it one of the best ventilated pits. Never heard any complaints against the pit, it was always reckoned a safe one. He had often heard workmen say they considered it perfectly safe. Had not been in the pit since the 14th of August till after the explosion, but his opinion was that the ventilation had been good up to the occurence. The explosion, in his opinion, would not have taken place, if the Davy lamp had not been injured. Stone had fallen from the roof when the deputy had been removing the *jud*. When stone falls from the roof, gas is frequently let out in great quantites. If the wire gauze of the Davy lamp had been injured by the fall of the stone, it is probable that would cause the explosion. From all he saw it is his opinion that that was the cause of the explosion. In answer to Mr. Roberts and the Coroner he stated:—It is not a common occurrence for a Davy lamp to be injured by a fall of stone. Has never seen such an occurrence, but has heard of one or two instances, and then there were explosions. Could not say that the accident would have been prevented by having gauze of a greater thickness. Saw 40 or 50 dead bodies—some were close at hand, and others further off from the scene of the explosion. Was never at so extensive an explosion as this. Sometimes fire and sometimes choke-damp is the cause of death. There are more men killed by choke-damp or after-damp than by combustion. The greatest distance from the place where the explosion took place to where a dead body was found, would be about 300 yards. The after-damp is only conveyed to particular parts of the pit, and not to the whole pit. The explosion extended over the north west and east parts of the pit. The after-damp, he had no doubt had extended to every part where the bodies had been found. Every possible exertion was used to get into the pit to save the bodies of the men. The after-damp was so strong that they could not get sooner into the pit than they did. They made two attempts. Out of the 95, only 15 of the sufferers are burnt. There were 10 or 20 near the one that was farthest off. There was a communication between the distance and that part of the pit where the explosion had taken place. After the explosion, the ventilation had been interrupted by the air stoppings being blown down. By air stoppings he meant barriers, placed to throw the air into the workings for ventilation. Would think there had not been a large explosion of gas. If the stoppings had not been broken by the explosion, those on the other side would have been saved. The stoppings are composed of bricks and lime, and it is usual for an explosion to break them down. They are a great protection. Has not been down since Sunday morning, but the pit might be viewed now with safety. Davy lamps are a sure protection when uninjured. Has seen fire in a safety, which was supported inside the gauze by foul air. The Davy lamp is the best lamp. In answer to Mr. Marshall he said:—Fifteen or sixteen were killed by fire, and the remainder by after-damp. It was possible for the mine to be safe previously to the fall of the stone at the jud, where the explosion took place. A quantity of gas, sufficient to cause an explosion, might appear in a short time—an instance occurred in their pit, two days before, where the gas carried away a large portion of the coal. Candles were used in the "whole" part of the mine but the explosion did not take place there. He felt confident of this, as there was no indications of fire. The safety of the Davy lamp consists in confining the flame within the gauze, and it gives an intimation of approaching danger. When appearances of danger arise, instructions are given to remove the lamp, and means are taken to remove the gas. He never knew an explosion by the forcing of the flame through the gauze, on the removal of the lamp, on the appearance of danger. It was not possible to make the stoppings strong enough to resist such an explosion.

James Scott stated that he was an under-viewer at Haswell colliery. About 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon he was in the office, when one of the off-putters came and said he believed the pit had fired. He went as quickly as possible down the pit, and proceeded along the north rolley-way, about 30 yards, leading into the little pit, and tried the air with a candle, and found it good. He then got a safety-lamp, and went along the little pit rolley-way, and found the air good all the way to the mouth of the stone-drift. At this point he found a strong deficiency in the quantity of air, and the current was in the wrong direction. He proceeded along the stone-drift. The two main hole-drifts at the end were blown down; also at the air-crossing beside it. The first air which ought to have gone along the main line was escaping at those places. He then came along the tram-way from the mouth of the stone-drift, and found a set of rolleys with empty tubs on them. The horse and its driver at the in-by end of the rolleys was dead. He then proceeded with John Miller, whom he had met, to a set of rolleys with laden tubs in a siding—the horse was dead at the out-by end of the rolleys, and also the driver. They went forward about 50 yards, and found a body dead at Meadows way flat. For want of air at that point, they were obliged to return. They went back about 300 yards, where they had a little air, and consulted, and thought the best thing to be done was to get in the stoppings to carry the air to that point. From what he saw he was convinced that all the men in the pit were dead. He then came to the Meadows way-end, and up to the Meadows flat, where he found two boys and a horse dead. He was then so bad, he was forced to return to the Meadows way-end. Mr. Brown, the first witness, then came up. They stood awhile, and went to the flat again, and got about 100 yards further, when they both found it necessary to return to the Meadows way-end. They agreed to get all the air-stoppings in as far as possible, to clear the whole pit of the after-damp. Witness and Mr. Brown went with some men into the first stopping of the Brockley Whins flat, and then he went out-by into the stone-drift, where the other men were putting in stoppings, and assisted. After being there a short time, he went into the Meadows flat again, along with a deputy named George Wilson, and got about 50 yards further than he did previously, when he was forced to return. He returned to the men at the stoppings, and an hour afterwards, he and several men, Mr. Brydon and others, went into the mother-gate, and he allowed Mr. Brydon the working there, and he went up four pillars, and 18 or 19 men were found. Witness came out-by to forward the stoppings, and the other men went forward. The remainder of the time was spent in getting out the dead bodies. The stoppings were put in, and the air was much improved; and he saw them bringing the dead bodies out at the fourth headway-course, where 19 were dead. After that he went to the second and third headways-course, where the men had been working, and the air was much improved, as he could not perceive the slightest indication of any gas.

Digitized by Google

He went to the sixth and seventh headways-course, and found it there just as good. He then went forward up the mother-gate about three pillars, when he was so ill from the air, he was forced to come out of the pit and go home. The witness also said, in reply to various questions—About 12 A.M. on Sunday, a Davy lamp was found about four yards from the edge of the fall of stones at the *jud*. The lamp was entire, all but the plug at the bottom where the oil was put in, which was not. The lamp was standing against a prop: there was little oil in it. The wick was very loose in the pipe. If combustion was caused by the plug being out, the gas would have to ascend the tube containing the wick, but that was not likely—though possible, it was not probable. The explosion must have taken place from a defective or an injured lamp. Two or three lamps were found this morning by John Miller, overman, who brought them to witness. He examined them. One was perfect—in the other, the gauze was much broken and twisted, just above the lamp having the appearance of being crushed. (The lamp was exhibited, much bulged.) He thought the crushing of the gauze had caused the explosion. Thinks the flame might burn through the gauze, and cause the explosion. Witness was down the pit on the day of the accident, at 7 A.M. All was perfectly safe and free from foul air.

John Miller, an overman at the colliery, stated his opinion to be that the explosion took place at the 9th headways-course where the jud was removed—thinks a blow of gas might come off on anything happening to the lamp. The damaged lamp is now in the same state as when found by Thomas Wardle. His opinion was, the fall of stone had taken place before the explosion, because the timber had been taken out and piled on the train, and the drawing of the timber caused the fall of the stone. The cause of the explosion he thinks, arose from a defect of some of the safety lamps close at hand, when the gas came off. There were three lamps found at the jud—the oil was out of one, and another was crushed. If there was a small wick in the lamp, thinks the gas might go up the plug hole of the lamp without a plug, especially if lying on the slant as he found it. Did not examine the wick. Cannot say whether the flame would be forced through the gauze of the crushed lamp, as he cannot see the gauze is broken. There is no other part of the pit except the jud, where any indication of the explosion having taken place can be seen. Has been an overman of the pit turned nine years, and never previously conceived there was any danger from an accumulation of gas. Has never had any complaints, or heard any from men concerning the gas. He was twice through that part of the pit on Saturday, and examined it attentively. The last time was about half-past five, and he came out a little before seven, when there was no appearance of danger. The ventilation was quite good.

Joseph Fairley said he was inspector of the pit. He had examined it since the explosion and his evidence corroborated the previous witnesses.

Mr. Roberts here applied to have the pit and also the lamps examined by competent persons unconnected with the colliery owners. Mr. Marshall had no objection provided the examiners were not named by Mr. Roberts. Mr. R. proposed Mr. Matthias Dunn, which was objected to; and Mr. Roberts then said he would apply to the Secretary of State to send persons down, and wished the inquest adjourned till an order from the Home Office could be obtained. This the Coroner refused; and the inquiry was finally adjourned till the following morning.

TUESDAY, OCT. 1.—Mr. Marshall stated the owners were anxious for the fullest inquiry, and would submit the pit to the examination of any impartial professional persons. Mr. Roberts said the persons should be approved by the pitmen.

Robert Beany, a miner, said he left the pit on the Saturday morning at 10 o'clock, and the ventilation was then good. Has worked 7½ years in the colliery. The whole part of the coal is worked with candles, which he considers safe, the broken is worked with lamps. He always considered the pit one of the safest he has ever been down. When he left work, he met with about 15 other men leaving their work, and not one of them expressed any fear of approaching danger. Deputies go down the pit with every fresh shift of men; the duty of the deputies is to go round and timber the places where the men are at work and to see that everything is safe; and as a proof that they do this, one of the sufferers, George Hall, was in witness's place a little before he left work, for the purpose of examining that place. The Davy lamp is safe, so long as the gauze is uninjured, if it be properly attended to. When the lamp indicates gas, their orders are to come out immediately into the fresh air. Can attach blame to no one, neither individually or collectively for this sad occurrence. Had heard men working in the whole part of the mine complain of too much air, and when working in narrow places, the current of air was frequently so great that the men had to request the deputy to leave the brattice back a little, which would have the effect of throwing less air into the workings. At that part he considered the air too strong for a man to work.

This witness, when cross-examined by Mr. Roberts, admitted that great responsibility rested upon keeping the waste clear—and that he had heard pitmen since the strike complain of strange men working on the waste, but there were none where the accident occured. If pitmen had any complaints, they should have made them to the first officer they met.

Joseph Short, a pitman, had worked 8½ years in the pit, and was there on Saturday. The ventilation was as good as could be. Had worked with a candle in the whole coal, and there was not the slightest indication of inflammable air. The distance from the broken where lamps are used, to the place where candles are used, is several hundred yards. Prefers the Davy lamp to any other, and considers, if attended to, that it gives sufficient indication of danger. Had never heard, during the 8½ years he had worked in the pit, any complaints made by others that the ventilation was bad. It was one of the safest pits he was ever in; but has been in other pits where as little gas was given off as in Haswell.

Mr. Roberts said he thought it was not necessary to have any further evidence similar to that already given.

Thomas Jobling confirmed the evidence already given. He had been employed 2½ years in the pit, and left it 20 minutes before the explosion. Was of opinion that the explosion had been caused, not by negligence, but by accident.

William Farish had worked 3 years in the pit, and was at work on Saturday. He had worked in the place where two bodies were found; and when he was there, the ventilation was perfectly good. Thought the explosion accidental: does not think it could have been prevented. Had never worked in a pit better ventilated, and he had worked in nine.

Ralph Harrington, pitman, could not say whether the explosion was from accident or negligence. Had heard pitmen complain of too much air in the pit. Never was down a better ventilated pit. It is better to have too much than too little air. The distance the air had to travel to the place where the explosion occurred, was 1,400 yards. It is desirable to have a current of air in every part of the pit.

Thomas Scott:—Had been a pitman 23 years. Worked in the Haswell pit. It was reckoned the best ventilated pit on the Wear. In answer to a delegate who cross-examined him, he stated that no strangers were employed in the pit, except in company with experienced pitmen; and that it was possible for the explosion to have taken place even with a current of air—for the gas sometimes overpowered the air, and then explosion occurred.

Edward Fenwick:—Was check-viewer at the pit. Had examined it since the explosion. Had examined the external parts of the Meadows flats, particularly the return of the air. There was a good travelling air in the direction of the return drift, and the marks of the explosion were on the walls and timber. The marks were all in one direction, indicating the direction in which the force had gone. The inferences to be drawn from the appearances were, that the explosion must have taken place near the high end of the Meadows flats, and facing the working places. Examined a few of the boards at the Brockley Whins flat, and found the indications of fire not so strong in that direction. As check-viewer to the colliery, he was in the habit of going down the pit. Had had opportunities of comparing the collieries with many others, and, with one exception, it exceeded them all for ventilation and attention to the direction of the air. Does not think that there are any means known at the present day that would have made the ventilation better. Thought the explosion must have occurred by the exposure of the flame of a lamp or candle. Scientific men have admitted that flame may be forced through the lamp when the gauze is red hot.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2.—The court resumed.

Mr. Thompson, the master waste-man, detailed all the courses pursued in the waste, and the parts connected; and gave it as

Digitized by Google

his opinion, that it was impossible, by any known means of ventilation, to improve the currents of air in the pit. He considered it the best ventilated pit in the district; and none of the workmen had ever complained to him of the ventilation. The evidence of the witness went generally to confirm the witnesses of the preceding days. The strange men working in the waste were in charge of experienced waste-men, and no danger could arise from them without the men becoming acquainted with it. There could be no accumulation of gas in the waste, without his making the discovery when travelling through it. In his opinion, the cause of the explosion was a mystery, and it would remain so. It was not to be accounted for by any of the common occurrences of mining experience. The witness was cross-examined by Mr. Roberts, but nothing material affecting the case was elicited.

Mr. Forster, the viewer, then underwent examination, extending over a period of four and a half hours. He detailed the whole working of the pit—describing the air courses, the extent of the ventilation, and the great care constantly taken to preserve everything in order. When he heard of the accident he did not credit it, because he did not conceive it possible to have happened, as the ventilation was so perfect. No great quantity of gas had ever shown itself in the pit, as it was always carried off by the strong current of air passing through. He could not account for the accident, unless a sudden gush of gas had taken place on the removal of the *jud*, and that Williamson's lamp being injured by the fall of stone, caused the gas to come in contact with the flame, and produced combustion. In answer to Mr. Roberts, the witness stated that he had a personal objection, from private matters, to Mr. Matthias Dunn examining the pit; but if the coroner and jury deemed it right that the pit should be examined by Mr. Dunn, he had no objection. If the truth was spoken, it was not in Mr. Dunn's power to injure him by the examination. His objection was merely personal. During the examination, Mr. Roberts was ordered to be removed out of court, in consequence of his persisting in insinuating that there was something behind Mr. Forster's objection to Mr. Dunn—but which Mr. Forster denied. On the officer approaching, the coroner asked Mr. Roberts if he would conduct himself properly if allowed to remain, when he replied that he would, as he always did, and wished to do. The matter was then allowed to drop.

These were the only witnesses examined to-day.

The Coroner then informed the public that he intended to adjourn the inquest for a few days, in order that the pit might be examined by two professional gentlemen; and the jury, after consultation, proposed that Mr. Nicholas Wood and Mr. George Hunter should be the examiners. Mr. Roberts requested that Messrs. Dunn and Mather might be the examiners; but this was not consented to by the Coroner: but the owners of the colliery intimated through Mr. Marshall their willingness, not only that the gentlemen proposed by the jury should examine the pit, but that they should be accompanied by the two gentlemen proposed by Mr. Roberts; which latter offer Mr. Roberts declined. The court was then adjourned until Wednesday, October 9.

The Rev. J. H. Delamere, curate of Gateshead, has been appointed by Sir Robert Peel to the Incumbency of the new parish of Failsworth, near Manchester, upon the recommendation of the Bishop of Chester.

Messrs. John Abbot & Co., of this borough, have lately cast a large blowing cylinder for the Conside Iron Works, near Shotley Bridge. The cylinder was eleven feet in length, eight feet in diameter, and weighed about sixteen tons. A number of ladies and gentlemen were admitted to see the process of casting, which, on so large a scale, had a splendid effect. This is the second cylinder of the same dimensions which has been cast at Messrs. Abbot's foundry.

Supply of Water for Gateshead. — We are happy to announce that the reservoir for water at the end of Mulgrave-terrace is now completed, through the kindness and liberality of the Lord Bishop of this diocese, and fully answers its purpose. There is now a constant supply of water for those who live in that locality; and the inconvenience previously felt from so many persons being obliged to wait, while their vessels were filling, has been in a great degree obviated. To Mr. Councillor Revely, the public is everlastingly indebted for the pains he has taken to see the Bishop's benevolent intentions efficiently carried out.

"The Pitman's Pay."—*Hunt's London Journal*, in reviewing the work of our respected neighbour, Thomas Wilson, Esq., of Gateshead Fell, observes:—"This is, indeed, 'sunshine in dark places,' the poetry of a collier's life, a life in which but little poetry has hitherto been supposed to exist. The author reminds us very much of one of Bloomfield's short poems, 'The Journey to to the Fair,' beginning 'Come, Goody, stop thy humdrum wheel,' from his true natural humour and simplicity of expression. The sturdy, rough, honest, and hearty nature of the coal-hewer, is here powerfully depicted. It is like a picture of boors by Teniers, admirable in its colouring, its humour, and its exactness. The poem is so curious and characteristic, so unlike the mere unmeaning stuff that is daily and hourly set before us, that we purpose to give a short sketch of it as furnished to us by the author in 'the argument.' The sketch of the goodwife, and her method of humouring her husband, is the gem of the pitman's poem. Homely as is the picture, it has touches of exquisite nature, and is worthy of the home of the pitman. We question whether Hector and Andromache could form a better subject for the painter than this coal-hewer and his Nanny!"

The Haswell Explosion.—The details of this great calamity, as given at the inquest, will be found in another column. With the exception of the Wallsend explosion in 1835, that at Haswell has been more fatal than any on record. The following is a list of all the accidents which have occurred, during the present century, in Northumberland and Durham, in which 50 lives and upwards have been lost:—

1812.—May 25.—Felling, 92 lives lost, by explosion.
1815.—May 3.—Heaton, 75 lives lost by inundation.
1815.—June 2.—Success Pit, Newbottle, 57 lives lost by explosion.
1821.—Oct. 23.—Wallsend, 52 lives lost by explosion.
1823.—Nov. 3.—Plain Pit, Rainton, 59 lives lost by explosion.
1835.—June 18.—Wallsend, 102 lives lost by explosion.
1839.—June 28.—St. Hilda, South Shields, 51 lives lost by explosion.
1844.—Sept. 28.—Haswell, 95 lives lost by explosion.

This is a fearful catalogue—and one, we trust, which will not appeal to science, to benevolence, and to the legislature in vain.

The Land Tax.—The gross total amount of the land-tax in all the counties of England and Wales (both redeemed and unredeemed) is £1,858,924 6s. 1d. The total amount of the land-tax redeemed is £724,463, and that of the land-tax unredeemed, £1,134,460. The land tax is distributed as follows (both redeemed and unredeemed), viz.:—

Bedfordshire	£28,433	Lincolnshire	£70,548
Berkshire	40,197	Middlesex	236,949
Buckinghamshire	46,818	Monmouthshire	9,612
Cambridgeshire	32,462	Norfolk	81,819
Chester	27,476	Northamptonshire	42,159
Cornwall	30,477	Northumberland	13,460
Cumberland	3,727	Nottinghamshire	26,733
Derbyshire	23,403	Oxfordshire	38,127
Devonshire	77,772	Rutland	5,743
Dorsetshire	32,026	Shropshire	28,684
Durham	10,444	Somersetshire	69,902
Essex	88,647	Staffordshire	26,140
Gloucestershire	46,657	Suffolk	72,499
Hampshire	52,596	Surrey	65,110
Herefordshire	20,106	Sussex	58,399
Hertfordshire	41,783	Warwickshire	39,106
Huntingdonshire	15,278	Westmorland	3,030
Kent	80,495	Wiltshire	50,987
Lancashire	19,406	Worcestershire	32,411
Leicestershire	34,238	Yorkshire	88,054

TO THE MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE EAST WARD OF THE BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN, — At the urgent solicitation of many of my friends, I beg to announce myself as a Candidate for your Suffrages at the approaching Election for Town Councillors.

Should you do me the honour of returning me as one of your Representatives in the Council, I can assure you my best attention will be devoted to the interests of the Borough, and the *defence* of the *rights* of the Inhabitants.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient, humble Servant,
WILLIAM COOK.

Blue Bell Inn, Gateshead, 28th Sept., 1844.

Digitized by Google

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE EAST WARD OF THE BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—As the period for which you elected me a Town Councillor expires on the 1st of November, and as other Councillors and Candidates have addressed the Municipal Electors, I beg to say that I am ready to represent you again, should it be your wish that I should do so.

I first accepted office as a Councillor, and I have continued to act in that capacity, in the hope that I might contribute to the restoration of the Borough Property to its rightful owners. My opinions on that question remain unchanged—every day's experience, indeed, confirms me in them. Should yours, like mine, have undergone no alteration, I shall gladly do all I can to accomplish our common object.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient and humble Servant,
JAMES HYMERS.

Ellison-street, Gateshead, October 4, 1844.

TO THE MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE SOUTH WARD OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—The two retiring Councillors for your Ward having declined becoming Candidates at the ensuing Election, I beg most respectfully to offer myself as a Candidate for your suffrages. Should you do me the honour of electing me one of your Representatives in the Town Council, I pledge myself to attend to your interests, and the interests of the Borough generally.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,
JOHN ROBSON.

High-street, Gateshead, October 4, 1844.

TO THE ELECTORS OF JESMOND WARD, NEWCASTLE.

GENTLEMEN,—A report having become prevalent that I purpose Resigning the Office of Representative of your Ward in the Council, I hasten to announce formally to you that determination, which I have already avowed verbally, but which, I had thought, it would be better to have withheld until a more advanced period.

I do not desire to conceal that for some time past the subject of retiring from the Council has been presented to my mind, chiefly in consequence of calls being made upon my time and labour, which it is my duty to respond to, and which made it impossible that I could give that attention to Corporate Affairs which I know will frequently be demanded of me, and which, as the Representative of a considerable Constituency, I consider I ought to bestow on them. I have, therefore, resolved not to offer myself to your notice as a Candidate at the ensuing Election.

On the Municipal Reform Act coming into operation, you were pleased to confer on me, in a manner gracious on your part, and flattering to myself, the office of being your Representative in the Council of this Borough, and you have been pleased to continue your confidence in me until the present time. As I have laboured in the Council earnestly for the benefit of the town and its great commercial interests, I trust I shall not retire from that body divested of your favourable opinion. It has been my wish to confine the deliberations of the Council almost exclusively to matters of Local and practical Interest, and and to encourage freely all measures calculated to expand the capabilities, and to improve the resources, of the town. I believe you agree with me in thinking these are objects the most worthy of the attention, and the most consonant with, the duty of a Town Councillor; and that it is to be regretted whenever the attainment of them is lost sight of by the Council itself.

It only remains, Gentlemen, that I finally thank you for the very kindly feeling you have hitherto shown towards me; and that I convey these Thanks more especially to those of you who have invariably interested yourselves in my behalf.

With many Thanks,
I remain, Gentlemen,
Yours very respectfully,
ROBERT PLUMMER.

Newcastle upon-Tyne, Sept. 24, 1844.

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

AN ACCOUNT of the ATTENDANCES of MEMBERS of the COUNCIL, at COUNCIL and COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

1843—4.	Council.		Watch Committee.		Town Improv. Committee.		Lighting Committee.		Finance Committee.		Corpor. Quay Committee.		TOTAL.	
Number of Meetings	10		14		21		20		4		3		72	
MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.	Present.	Absent.	Present.	Absent.	Present.	Absent.	Present.	Absent.	Present.	Absent.	Present.	Absent.	Present.	Absent.
Mayor.														
William Kenmir	10	0	7	7	11	10	11	9	2	2	1	2	42	30
Aldermen.														
John Barras	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5
Robert Davis	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	1
William Henry Brockett	10	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	0
Thomas Wilson	8	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	2
James Pollock	8	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	11	3
George Sowerby	0	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	10
Councillors.														
James Hymers	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	2	5	8
Charles Dunn	0	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	4	..	..	0	14
John Lister, jun.	7	3	..	..	13	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	11
John Potts	9	1	7	7	13	8	..	..	3	1	2	1	34	18
Thomas Revely	9	1	14	0	21	0	..	..	..	..	3	0	47	1
John Lister, sen.	7	3	5	9	..	..	14	6	..	..	2	1	28	19
Thomas Cummins	3	7	..	..	11	10	16	4	..	..	2	1	32	22
Charles Bertram	1	9	3	11	..	..	..	..	0	4	0	3	4	27
Ralph Wylam	7	3	8	6	..	..	15	5	..	..	..	..	30	14
Joseph Robson	7	3	8	6	12	9	17	3	2	1	..	..	46	22
Cornelius Garbutt	10	0	13	1	17	4	12	8	4	0	..	..	56	13
Thomas Sowerby	1	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	4	..	..	1	13
Daniel Robson	0	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	10
James Smith	8	2	8	6	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	18	10
John Edward	10	0	9	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	5
Samuel Kent	4	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	6
Joseph Reed Wilson	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5

WHICKHAM.

MESSRS. SMALL & BROUGH have received instructions from the Rev. H. Douglas, (who is removing from the Neighbourhood,) to offer FOR SALE BY AUCTION, at the Rectory of Whickham, in the latter part of the present month, all the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and other EFFECTS, comprising Mahogany Dining, Card, Spider, and other Tables; Sideboard; Chairs, in Morocco and Hair Seating; Rosewood Loo, Card, and Occasional Tables; Dumb Waiter; Crimson Damask Moreen Window Curtains and Cornice complete; Three Slide Screens; Pianoforte; Music Stool and Tall Boy; Turkey, Brussels, and other Carpets and Hearth Rugs; Fenders and Fire Irons; Four-post, French, and Camp Bedsteads, with Damask and Chintz Hangings; prime Feather Beds; Hair Mattresses; Mahogany and Painted Wardrobes; Mahogany and Painted Chests of Drawers; Washstands and Dressing Tables; Commodes, &c.; Carpets; Oil Cloth; Timepiece and Bracket; Eight-day Clock; Mangle; and all the Kitchen Requisites.

Also, a PHAETON; with 2 Double Sets of Silver-Mounted Harness; 1 Set of Single Harness; 2 Saddles; 1 Side Saddle; Bridles, &c.

Two CARRIAGE HORSES and a LADY'S PONY; Water Cart; 1 Four-light and 1 Two-light Frame; Stone Roller; Garden Implements, &c.; Lathe and Tools.

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

NOTICE is hereby given, that an OPEN COURT will be holden by us at the TOWN HALL, in Oakwellgate, within this borough, on TUESDAY, the eighth day of October instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of REVISING the WARD LISTS of the said borough.

Dated this first day of October, 1844.

WILLIAM KENMIR, Mayor.
THOMAS SWINBURNE, } Assessors.
WM. LOCKEY HARLE, }

Digitized by Google

Appalling Calamity on the Brandling Junction Railway.—An inquest was held at South Shields, on Wednesday, Oct. 9th, by J. M. Favell, Esq., on the body of John Brown, a drover, who had lost his life on the previous day, through a shameful piece of negligence and mismanagement. Before reporting the proceedings and result of the inquest, we copy the following notice of the accident from the *Tyne Mercury*:—

On Tuesday morning, as the butchers' five-o'clock train was proceeding from South Shields to Gateshead, a fearful accident happened opposite West Harton colliery. At that point the train came in collision with a detached locomotive (the *Hawk*), proceeding to Shields to bring up that very train, which was impelled by a locomotive employed on the staiths. The engineman being unable to stay the train, reversed the motion and jumped off, but was unable to prevent the collision which ensued, and which severed the tender from the engine. The engine, having no countervailing force, ran back with the train to Shields at a tremendous rate of velocity (60 miles an hour), the butchers jumping off all the way, many of whom were severely injured, and narrowly escaped with life. On arriving at the station, the dismembered train dashed into the mail-train for Gateshead that was waiting, forcing a portion of it against a stone-wall, and breaking a number of carriages to atoms. Just as the train reached the station, two or three men jumped out, one of whom, George Gamble, broke his jaw-bone, and was severely injured about the head. John Brown, a drover, Joseph Burrell, a butcher, and a little boy, apprentice to Mr. Reed, Market place, South Shields, were buried beneath the wreck of the carriages. They were instantly taken out by the glassmen at Cookson's works, when Brown was found to be so seriously injured that his death in a few hours was the result. Burrell received such hurts that he was not expected to recover, and the lad had his collar-bone broken. The medical gentlemen of the town were soon upon the spot, and used every exertion to alleviate the sufferings of the unfortunate persons. The accident may be attributed to the fact that a locomotive should have been sent to Shields on the Monday evening to impel the butchers' train. On the discovery of the omission on Tuesday morning, the engine was sent; and, going on the up-line instead of the down-line, came into contact with the train which it should have steered safely to its destination. There was no lamp to the train, although the morning was pitch-dark.

Burrell, a resident in Thames-street, South Shields, has since died. William Greenwell had his hip and ankle dislocated; Joseph Young sustained a dangerous internal injury; John Douthwaite had his shoulder put out and his thigh injured; George Gamble was dreadfully and dangerously injured in the head; William Wetherell broke his ribs; Anthony Brown had his face bruised; John Tindall, Mr. Reed's apprentice, had his collar-brone broken; John Wilkinson, railway-guard, was severely bruised; Thomas Forrest was hurt in the arm; William Lawson was crushed and contused; Thomas Gallon sustained slight bruises; Matthew Davidson was injured in the leg and arm; Anthony and Robert Thompson, father and son, escaped with trifling hurts; Frederick Moore was cut and bruised; Michael Middleton was wounded, chiefly in the eye; Samuel Osborne was slightly cut; and Thomas Batey broke his nose and was otherwise wounded. The total number of passengers was 30, nearly all of whom were more or less hurt. The inquest was held at the Adam and Eve, Brunswick-street, (Mr. James Mather, foreman). The room was crowded. Mr. Plews, a director, and Mr. Newton, of York, the company's solicitor, were present. From the evidence it appeared that two trains, a coal-train and a butchers' train, leave the South Shields station about 5 o'clock in the morning, (the coal train on one line, and the butchers' train on the other); and that on Monday night last, instead of (as is usual) two engines, only one, the *Nelson*, was at the station. On the same night, Mr. Bell, manager of the locomotive department, told William Chapman, a fireman, to tell George Taylor, an engineman, to tell Matthew Burdis, another engineman, to come away from South Shields, with his own train (*i. e.*, the coal-waggon train), on Tuesday morning, at 5 o'clock. Mr. Bell also instructed Ralph Donkin, engineman, to take the *Leopard* to South Shields at 4 o'clock, to bring up the butchers' train. The message intended for Burdis, it would appear, reached him imperfectly, the words "his own train" being omitted, so that he was led to believe it was the passenger-train he was to conduct to Gateshead. On this misunderstanding he acted. He attached the *Nelson* engine to the butchers' train, and brought it from South Shields. Meanwhile, Donkin was proceeding from Gateshead with the *Leopard*, on the same line of rails, to perform the same task; and the two trains met in collision, in the darkness of the morning, near Boldon lane. Donkin, of the *Leopard*, had shut off the steam, reversed the engine, and put on the steam again, to go backwards; but when he saw that a collision was unavoidable, he shut off the steam, and, with his fireman, leaped off. Burdis, of the *Nelson*, and his fireman, Michael Hunter, also jumped off, but not until the steam was shut off—the engine reversed—and the steam turned on again, to check the forward motion. It was unfortunate that Burdis did not shut off the steam before he left his post. The consequence was, that while the *Leopard* stood still, the *Nelson* drove the passenger train to South Shields with terrific velocity. Mr. John Reed, butcher, jumped out, and escaped unhurt; also, among others, Mr. Thomas Gallon, who was stunned by the shock. At the station, the train dashed into several empty carriages, intended for the ½6 o'clock train, and drove them to pieces against a heavy piece of timber, called a chock-piece, placed across the line to stop the trains, and which alone preserved the passengers from being precipitated into the coal-depôt below, a depth of from 40 to 50 feet. As it was, two or three carriages were forced over the balk of timber; and the passengers, groaning and shrieking amidst the wreck of the train, were in a dreadful condition. The coroner and jury expressed the warmest indignation at the mismanagement in which the calamity had originated, and two or three jurymen observed that Mr. Bell had far more to do than any man could properly perform, (being frequently occupied with his duties until midnight, and required to be at the station again at 5½ o'clock). The verdict of the jury, after attributing death to accident, imposed a deodand of *three hundred pounds* on the engine. The foreman added, that they were of opinion great mis-arrangement had existed on the line with respect to sending messages and in other matters; but believing that the new company would remedy the existing defects, they had considerably reduced the value which they had at first placed upon the engine. The passengers, it was stated during the inquiry (which did not close till near midnight), might all have readily escaped unhurt, at the time of the collision, if the railway-servants, when they were taking care of their own lives, had informed their travelling companions of what had occurred, and of the necessity of jumping out.

THE HASWELL INQUEST.

The coroner and jury assembled by adjournment on Wednesday, Oct. 9th, at 10 o'clock, in the Railway Tavern, Haswell. Mr. Maynard stated, that Dr. Faraday, professor of chemistry, and Charles Lyell, Esq., president of the Geological Society, were in attendance on the part of Her Majesty's Government, to assist in the investigation; and that, at the close of the inquest, an eminent viewer from Bristol would examine the pit.

Mr. Marshall, attorney for the owners, consented, in reply to Mr. Roberts, the pitmen's "attorney-general," that any pitmen whom he might name, should accompany the Bristol viewer. Mr. M. added, that Mr. Mather complained of the unauthorized use made of his name in the previous week. The owners had offered to allow Mr. Mather to examine the pit, but he had declined.

William Chilton was examined and cross-examined. He was a pitman, and had charge of the Davy lamps. Four of those brought to him after the explosion were bruised.

James Scott, under-viewer, deposed that one of the four lamps had been found at the Brockley Whins flat, at the ninth board He thought the lamps were bruised by the explosion. A lamp with the plug out was found where the men had drawn the *jud*. [This witness was cross-examined by Dr. Faraday, Mr. Lyell, Mr. Roberts, and Mr. Marshall. His evidence was to the effect that the mine was in a safe state, so far as could be known, before the explosion.]

John Thompson, rolley-way man, deposed that the pit was well ventilated. He had been 43 years in the pits, and was never before in one so well ventilated.

Thomas Chambers, Haswell-lane, pitman, who had examined the mine at the request of the workmen in the colliery, deposed that he was accompanied by eleven of the men. His opinion was, that the explosion had not taken place at the *jud*, but that the pit had fired from a candle in one of those boards coming into the Meadows headway-course. The ventilation was good, and the explosion, he believed, was the result, not of negligence, but of accident.

Nicholas Wood, the eminent viewer, was next examined. He differed from Chambers as to the point at which the explosion occurred. He thought it had taken place at the edge of the

Digitized by Google

goaf, near the *jud*, and that it was occasioned by a fall of stone. He considered Haswell-colliery to be well ventilated. Every precaution usual in the coal-trade had been taken. [By Mr. Lyell]: The system of working the "whole" and "pillar" separately was followed in Haswell pit; but the mode now generally adopted in pits was to work them both together, and was a very safe way, if care was taken. That system of excavation made the ventilation more perfect. [By Mr. Roberts]: The men might work the pit now in perfect safety; and if he had his own way, he would set them to work to-morrow.

At the conclusion of Mr. Wood's examination, the inquiry was adjourned to Friday morning, October 11, at 9 o'clock.

George Hunter, the Marquis of Londonderry's viewer, was the first witness examined on that day, and his evidence was corroborative of Mr. Nicholas Wood's.

James Scott, underviewer, deposed that the pit was in precisely the same state in which it was found after the explosion.

Samuel Stuckbury, agent at the Redstock mines, Somersetshire, belonging to the Earl de Waldegrave, deposed that he had, on the previous day, examined the pit on the part of the government, (ignorant at the time of all the circumstances of the explosion,) with Dr. Faraday, Mr. Lyell, and Mr. Forster (the viewer), Mr. Taylor, and others (subordinate officers and workmen). He had come to the conclusion, founded solely on his own examination of the mine, that the explosion was the result of an accident which could not be foreseen. He saw nothing in the pit undone which ought to have been done. No expense seemed to have been spared, in regard to ventilation or otherwise, to insure the safety of life and property. He was suprised at the stability of everything that he saw in the mine, and could attach no blame to any one.—Mr. Stuckbury went into minute details, and was cross-examined at considerable length.

At the conclusion of his evidence, the jury expressed themselves perfectly satisfied, and had no wish to hear any more witnesses.

Mr. Roberts stated that he had several in attendance, and was anxious to hear them examined.

The coroner asked the jury, one by one, if they desired further evidence; and the answer was unanimously in the negative. He therefore proceeded to sum up.

The jury, after consulting together, returned a verdict of "Accidental Death," attributing blame to no one.

The jurymen were—Messrs. Matthew Elliott (foreman), Thomas Richardson, William Moody, George Humble, Hugh Dryden, William Soulsby, Simon Dryden, John Mason, George Watson, William Allison, William Miller, George Marston, and William Williamson.

THE NEWCASTLE TOWN-COUNCIL

p Sir JOHN FIFE, Mayor.

ALDERMEN.	p Ingledew, H.	p Taylor, F.	*St. John.*
p Batson, T. R.	p Straker, G.	p Rayne, C.	p Cookson, Wm.
p Bell, Thomas	p Harle, W. L.	*W. All Saints.*	p Radford, J.
Bigge, C. J.	Robinson, R.	p Ormston, J.	p Plues, Matthew
p Brandling, J.	p Stokoe, S.	p Parker, A.	p Charnley, E
p Carr, John	*N. St. Andrew.*	p Sillick, J.	p Brown, William
p Donkin, A.	p Archbold, J.	p Carr, J. T.	p Burrell, I.
p Dunn, G. T.	p Philipson, R. P.	Proctor, W. B.	*Westgate.*
p Headlam, Dr.	p Keenlyside, T.	p Hall, Edward	p Hawthorn, R.
p Hodgson, J.	p Dodds, Ralph	*E. All Saints.*	p Finlay, James
p Lamb, Joseph	p Blackwell, J.	p Ridley, John	p Bargate, George
Loch, James	p Dunn, Thomas	p Hunter, John	*Jesmond.*
p Potter, A. L.	*S. St. Andrew.*	p Lowrey, S.	p Armstrong, W.
p Nichol, A.	p Weatherley, J. D	p Crawhall, J.	Plummer, R.
COUNCILLORS.	p Gray, A. G.	p Shield, Henry	Turner, Henry
St. Nicholas'.	p Sanderson, F.	p Turner, Wm.	—
p Nichol, John	p Jobling, M. L.	[Those marked p were present.]	

AN adjourned meeting was held on the 9th Oct.—Margaret Jamieson, aged 71, was elected to a vacancy in the hospital at the Manors.

The MAYOR laid several communications before the Council:—1. From Sir James Graham, acknowledging the loyal address to the Queen on the birth of a Prince.—2. From the Mayor of Morpeth, enclosing resolutions on the subject of the intended railway to Berwick.—3. From the Postmaster General, declining for the present to carry into effect the request of the Council for the acceleration of the mails.—4. From Lieut. Simmons, R.N., requesting the Council to contribute to the funds of the Naval and Military Bible Society.—5. From a great number of the inhabitants, praying the Council to petition the legislature to extend the provisions of the Metropolitan Police Act to Newcastle.—6. From Henry Rollo, praying to be appointed to the office of town-crier.—7. From the Border Union Agricultural Society, on the subject of Newcastle cattle market.

The communications were severally referred to committees.

Mr. Ald. HODGSON, Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented a report, showing that the ordinary income of the corporation, during the year ending August 31, 1844, exhibited a falling-off, as compared with that of the preceeding year, of £4,818. £3,462 of the decrease had occurred under the head of port and harbour dues, and was attributable to the "strike," and consequent interruption of the coal-trade. The receipts for rents had fallen off £1,135, arising from the abandonment of St. Lawrence' colliery, and arrears of colliery-rent. In the rates for watching, lighting, &c., there was a decrease of about £500, owing to depression in trade and reductions in rental. In the thorough toll, there had been an increase of £866, proceeding from the receipt of arrears, and of a quarter's payment of the increased rent. The payments of the treasurer were £44,391 0s. 8d., being £3,072 12s. 8d. less than those of the preceding year, but £3,010 10s. 8d. beyond the receipts of the year just ended. In the current year, the ordinary income could not safely be estimated at more than £45,000, and no reduction of ordinary expenditure could be anticipated. The sum, therefore, available for the River and Town Improvement Committees, would be £11,000.

The Property Committee reported on the petition of the inhabitants of Ouseburn, alleging an encroachment on the right of the public to make use of the Ropery Banks. The report recommended that the public right of access, as recognized in the lease and deed of enfranchisement, should be protected. The walks in question, it appeared, were six feet wide, as specified in the documents in question; but the public had extended its right in practice.

Mr. CRAWHALL said, if it were wished to secure a wider extent of road than was stated in the deed, he was willing to meet that wish.

Ald. HEADLAM, M.D., brought forward his motion for a petition to parliament to abolish capital punishments.

The motion was seconded by Mr. HARLE, and supported by the MAYOR, Mr. Ald. DONKIN, Mr. TURNER, Mr. RAYNE, and Mr. STRAKER.

Mr. Ald. POTTER, Mr. Ald. DUNN, the SHERIFF, Mr. A. G. GRAY, Mr. PHILIPSON, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. HALL, and Mr. CRAWHALL, spoke on the other side; and on the motion of Mr. PHILIPSON, the previous question was carried by a show of hands.

Mr. STRAKER moved:—"That the ground on the south side of Neville-street be not conveyed to the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway Company, until the directors give an undertaking in writing to form a proper landing-place, with stone steps, for the free use and enjoyment of the public, on the quay in front of Messrs. Walker, Parker, & Company's lead works, in lieu of the wooden steps now fixed in the face of that quay." Seconded by Mr. PHILIPSON, and carried.

Routine business was transacted, and the proceedings of the meeting terminated.

Marriage.

At Gateshead Fell, on the 10th Oct., Mr. Richard Cail, of Newcastle, contractor, to Annie, daughter of Thomas Wilson, Esq., of Gateshead Fell House.

TO MASONS.

WANTED immediately, a number of MASONS to build about 200 COTTAGES, at BAR HOUSE, near SHOTLEY BRIDGE. Application to be made at the Works.

Bar-House, near Shotley Bridge, September 20, 1844.

THE WINDMILL HILLS.

TO THE

WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF GATESHEAD.

WE, the undersigned, respectfully request that you will be pleased to call a PUBLIC MEETING of the Inhabitants of this Borough, to take into consideration the best means of uniting with the Boroughholders and Freemen, in rendering the Windmill Hills more available as a place of Recreation to the Public; and also to consider the propriety of applying to Government for a portion of the Parliamentary

Digitized by Google

Grant for the formation of Public Walks in large towns, and on other business connected therewith.

John Akenhead
Thomas Cummins
John Davies, Rector
Walker Swan
George Angus
T. C. Angus
Edmund Graham
Wm. Colquhoun
Henry Armstrong
John Colman
Benjamin Matchitt
R. Wyatt
Thomas Robson
George Bell
Wm. Hedley
Joseph H. Maughan
James Hewitt
James Snowball
John W. Robinson
G. Hawks
Joseph Smith
George Straker
W. S. Haswell
Robert Pratt
Thomas Sowerby
John Phillips
Anthony Parker
R. Vernon
William Caley
Charles Dunn
John Hodgson
F. W. Lindsley
Joshua Greene, jun.
William Wylam
John Barras
John Kimpster
James Arther
James Arnott
Andrew Atchison
Wm. John Grey
Aaron Ridley
William Brewis
Robert Brown
Thomas Tucker
John Fawdon
Samuel Hunter
Thomas Hancock
Jacob Grey
Robert Osborne
Moses Cameron
William Pescot, jun.
F. Glenton
William Douglas
John Crow
George Goodbairn
Thomas Brown
Thomas Sanderson
James Plumpton
Charles Hamilton
Peter Bain
George S. Dixon
James M. Dixon
William Stobbs
William Elliott
Peter James Main
John Stobbs
Jeremiah Wilson
Thomas Murray
Henry Davison
John Robson
John Johnson
W. R. Ozwald
James Hymers, jun.
Thomas Robinson
John Dodgson
Jonathan Robson
John Matthewson

Wm. Lockey Harle
Thomas Morland
John Hutton
Joseph Kimpster
William Walker
John Davidson
Joshua Watson
Wm. W. Watson
John Vickers
John Snowdon
Wm. Parkinson
James Smith
Robert Storey
Thomas Wilson
Thomas Wilson, jun.
James Brydon
Wm. Oxford
Wm. Perry
John Firbank
Thomas Newton
A. R. Bowes
John Angus
John Russell
C. Dixon
Thomas Perry
Cornelius Garbutt
Thomas Revely
Thomas Atkinson
George Mather
H. R. Reed
Andrew Allan
George Elliott
William Atkinson
William Watson, jun.
William Blagburn
James Scott
William Cook
Parmella Wheatley
James Botcherby
Charles Dale
Joseph Angus
John Crimson
Joseph Fairs
Humphrey Morrison
W. Harvey
Henry Brady
Thomas Sill
John Blagburn
James Hood
Jesse Dexter
Henry Harrison
Thomas Morton
C. J. Pearson
William Spencer
M. Hobson (Freeman)
George Newstead
C. Watson Bennett
H. L. Pattinson
W. Johnson
George Balmer
David Colvin
T. Robson, Saltwellside
Moses Garthwaite
James Freeman
William Robinson
Robert Orton
William Johnson
W. Angus
Wm. Angus, jun.
Selby Brown
John Freeman
Benjamin Henderson
Robert Carr
David Scott
John Sharp Thirkill
John Moor
Joseph Marshall

F. P. Ionn
Robert Urwin
Henry Brown
Henry Bolam
James Perkins
George Pringle
John Turnbull
John Atkinson
Alexander Dickson
William Mould
Robert Jewitt
William Wilson
Richard Cummins
Robert Landells
James Barras
Edwin Wakefield
George Middleton
John Hopper
John Mould
John Eden
Charles I'Anson
John Hudson
John Bell
John A. Howe
John Nixon
Bartholomew Atkinson
John Jamieson
John Coulthard
Henry Elliott
John Tindale
John Atkinson
Robert Jamieson
E. Crawshay
John Sharp
John Cameron
Richard Cooke
Edward Robson
Joshua Audas
John Thomlinson
Joseph Hunter
D. Haggie, jun.
William Hopper
James Wilson, sen.
James Wilson, jun.
John Wilson
Robert Foreman
Sydney Pilling
W. G. Greene
Thomas Ferguson
Thomas Henderson
C. F. Springmann
Archibald Singers
William Robson
Thomas Elliott
Nathaniel Elliott
Richard Petch
Wm. Hutchinson
Wm. Wailes
Thomas Cox
Nelson Ormston
Robert Blagburn
Thomas Griffin
Thomas Bowman
Thomas Sisson
John Sisson
Anthony Headlam
Francis Bennett
Samuel Wilson
William Jollie, M.D.

Hugh Wilson
Clement Stephenson
David Ingham
Wm. Gibbon
Wm. Gibbon, sen.
Samuel E. Pearse
William Watson
Matthew Forster
Archibald Freeman
William Fallow
Wm. Andrew
Wm. Bennett, Assistant Curate
John Fawcett
John Atkinson
John Potts
William Joyce
Thos. Shaftoe Robson
William Humble
William Taylor, jun.
Thomas Wardman
Nicholas French
Thomas Robson
William Heppell
John Abbot
John Greene
Joseph Robson
Robert S. Welford
Richard Rodham
William Harrison
James Thompson
John Turnbull
Richard Crowley
George Stott
W. Liddle
William Lunn
James N. Warburton
Thomas Douglas
William Rickaby
Robert Elliott, M.D.
J. F. Brett
George Robson
Thomas Ridley
Wm. Rowntree
Bryan John Prockter
John Forster, jun.
R. C. Wilson
William Brown
William Bainbridge
R. E. Bewick
Henry Walker
John Welch
John A. Forster
Robert Robson
Joseph Clephan
Joseph Reed Wilson
John George Abbot
James Clephan
Thomas Speck, Curate
David Colling
G. J. Kenmir
Richard Garlick
Thomas Neilson
W. H. Brecknell
Edward Bruce
John Davidson
Thomas Bulcraig
W. E. Brockett
Thomas H. Apedaile

In compliance with the above Requisition, I hereby convene a PUBLIC MEETING of the Inhabitants of this Borough, to be holden in the NATIONAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS, in BARN CLOSE, on MONDAY NEXT, the 14th inst., at half-past 6 o'clock in the evening, for the purpose named in the Requisition. Dated this 9th day of October, 1844.

WILLIAM KENMIR, Mayor.

Digitized by Google

SUBSCRIPTIONS for the RELIEF of the FAMILIES of the SUFFERERS by the EXPLOSION AT HASWELL COLLIERY, in the county of Durham.

A COMMITTEE, composed of the following Gentlemen:—

THE MAYOR OF DURHAM,
THE DEAN OF DURHAM,
THE WARDEN OF THE UNIVERSITY,
REV. HENRY GEORGE LIDDELL,
REV. W. C. KING,
JOHN FAWCETT, Esq.,
WILLIAM SHIELDS, Esq.,

with power to add to their number, have consented to take charge of a Subscription for the Relief of the Families of the Sufferers at Haswell.

Subscriptions will be received at the different Banking-Houses in the county of Durham and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and at Messrs. Barnetts, Hoare, & Co., Lombard-street, and Messrs. Drummonds, 49, Charing-cross, London.

☞ Any Communications may be addressed to the Rev. B. E. DWARRIS, University College, Durham, who has kindly undertaken the Office of Secretary.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The Haswell Colliery Company	£525	0	0
Ditto for Shotton Colliery	210	0	0
The Earl of Durham	105	0	0
The Hetton Coal Company	105	0	0
The Lord Bishop of Durham	100	0	0
The Dean and Chapter of Durham	100	0	0
Newcastle Union Bank	100	0	0
John Bright, Esq., M.P	50	0	0
Northumberland and Durham District Bank,	50	0	0
R. H. Allan, Esq., Mayor of Durham	25	0	0
The Dean of Durham	25	0	0
Rowland Burdon, Esq., Castle Eden	20	0	0
John Fawcett, Esq., Durham	20	0	0
Messrs. Backhouse & Co., Bankers, Durham	20	0	0
Nicholas Wood, Esq	10	10	0
Rev. H. G. Liddell, Easington	10	0	0
Rev. W. C. King, Durham	10	0	0
Rev. John Burdon, Castle Eden	10	0	0
Mrs. Burdon, Castle Eden Cottage	10	0	0
Mr. Richardson, Castle Eden	10	0	0
W. L. Wharton, Esq., Dryburn	5	5	0
W. Shields, Esq., Durham	5	5	0
Mrs. Burdon, Castle Eden	5	0	0
—— Hamilton, Esq., Castle Eden	5	0	0
Mrs. Liddell, Easington	5	0	0
The Corporation of Durham	5	0	0
Jonathan Richardson, Esq	5	0	0
John Chapman, Esq	5	0	0
Rev. John Cundill, Durham	3	3	0
Rev. B. E. Dwarris, Durham	3	3	0
Mr. Day, Weifield, Castle Eden	3	0	0
Rev. John Edmunds, Castle Eden	3	0	0
Mr. J. Shields, Durham	2	2	0
Mr. Ald. Hogget, Durham	2	2	0
Rev. J. D. Shafto, Brancepeth	2	0	0

B. E. DWARRIS, Secretary.

Durham, October, 10, 1844.

THE GATESHEAD TOWN COUNCIL.

p WILLIAM KENNIR, Esq., Mayor

ALDERMEN.	COUNCILLORS.		
p Barras, John	p Bertram, C.	p Hymers, J.	Robson, D.
p Brockett, W. H.	Cummins, T.	Kent, Samuel	Robson, J.
p Pollock, James	Dunn, Charles	p Lister, J., sen.	Smith, James
Sowerby, G.	p Edward, J.	p Lister, J., jun.	Sowerby, T.
Wilson, Thos.	p Garbutt, C.	Potts, John	Wilson, J. R.
p Davis, Robert		p Revely, T.	p Wylam, Ralph

[Those marked p were present.]

A SPECIAL meeting was held on the 9th Oct., pursuant to a requisition signed by "Thomas Revely, W. H. Brockett, C. Garbutt, John Potts, and James Hymers," to consider the propriety of obtaining the house lately occupied by Mr. E. Graham, near the new railway-station, for the purpose of a townhall and police-offices.

The TOWN CLERK read the requisition, and the notice convening the meeting; also the following letter from George Hawks, Esq.:—

Redheugh, Oct. 9, 1844.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to the enclosed, I am extremely sorry that a severe cold (which confines me to my room) prevents me attending the council-meeting held this day, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of obtaining the house lately occupied by Mr. Graham, for the purposes of a townhall, justice-room, &c. Should my opinion as a Magistrate be called for or needed, I beg to state that I think Mr. Graham's late house so peculiarly adapted, both by internal arrangement and locality, to the purposes required, that the Town Council should not hesitate in taking it upon fair and reasonable terms. When the town can afford a further outlay, this property will be susceptible of great improvement, in the shape of a lock-up, &c. I further think that a large and increasing town like Gateshead will be justified in having a townhall which is the property of the town, and from which the Corporation cannot be ejected. I remain, my dear Sir, yours truly,

G. HAWKS.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Gateshead, or the Town Clerk, Council Room.

The MAYOR said, that Mr. Cummins had purchased the house and ground alluded to, and was willing to sell it to the Council for the purposes of a townhall.

After some conversation, it was considered advisable to view the premises before coming to any conclusion on the matter; consequently the Council proceeded in a body, and examined the house and grounds carefully. On their return, it was admitted that the house seemed eminently qualified for the purpose; that the opportunity was one which might not soon occur again; that the property was so capable of great improvement as eventually to render, in all probability, the cost to the public of a townhall, and other necessary offices, much less than it was at present; that a public assembly-room, 60 feet long, might be constructed, at a light expense, behind the house; and, finally, that a trifling (if any) additional rate would be required, inasmuch as the principal part of the purchase-money could be easily obtained by way of loan on security of the property. The Councillors, indeed, were most unanimous in their recommendations to secure the purchase.

The TOWN CLERK explained, that the Act required the Council to provide suitable offices for police and magisterial purposes; and that a license in mortmain could be readily procured, to authorize the Corporation to hold the property.

It was eventually resolved unanimously, on the motion of Ald. BROCKETT, seconded by Mr. GARBUTT—

"That as it is extremely desirable that suitable and permanent offices should be provided, for the purpose of transacting the public and police business of the borough, and as an opportunity now offers of obtaining the house near the new railway-station, recently belonging to and occupied by Mr. Edmund Graham, on equitable terms, it is the opinion of this Council that the same should be purchased for the purpose; and that a Committee be appointed to conclude such purchase, at a sum not exceeding £1,300; and that the said Committee, should the purchase be effected, do consider and report upon the best mode of so altering, improving, or enlarging the premises, as to render them most conducive to the convenience of the Council, the Borough Justices, and the Police; and to the benefit of the public; and that the present Mayor, together with Mr. Alderman Brockett, and Councillors Thomas Revely, Charles Bertram, Cornelius Garbutt, and John Lister, jun., be and are hereby appointed such Committee (of whom three shall be a quorum), with instructions to confer with the Borough Justices on the subject."

The Council then dissolved. [After the Council separated, the Committee had an interview with Mr. Cummins, and concluded with him the purchase of the premises for the sum of £1,300.]

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE WARD OF WEST ALL SAINTS'.

GENTLEMEN,—My period of service as your Representative in the Town Council will expire on the 1st of November. I take the liberty, therefore, of again offering myself as a Candidate for that important office, and soliciting a renewal of that confidence which you have hitherto been pleased to repose in me.

Identified as all my interests are with those of this important town, it will ever be my endeavour to promote and extend its commerce, and the general prosperity and well-being of the inhabitants.

Should you be pleased again to return me as your Representative in the Council, I shall continue to pursue that course of conduct which has hitherto secured your kind approbation.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your faithful and obedient Servant,
JOHN THOMAS CARR.

25, Broad-chare, October 10, 1844.

Digitized by Google

THE WINDMILL-HILLS.

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

On Monday, Oct. 14, a public meeting of the inhabitants of this borough, convened by the Worshipful the Mayor, William Kenmir, Esq., in compliance with a requisition bearing 291 signatures, was held in the National School, the use of which had been kindly granted by the Rector. The attendance was large and influential.

The Mayor opened the proceedings by expressing his desire that nothing might be said calculated to wound the feelings of any one, whatever might be his opinions on the Borough Question. (Applause.)

The Town Clerk read the requisition, stating the object of the meeting, namely, "to take into consideration the best means of uniting with the Boroughholders and Freemen, in rendering the Windmill-hills more available as a place of recreation to the public; and also to consider the propriety of applying to the government for a portion of the parliamentary grant for the formation of public walks in large towns."

The Rector, the Rev. Dr. Davies, was warmly applauded on rising to move the first resolution. (*See Advt.*) After a few preliminary remarks, the reverend gentleman said, the requisitionists, and also the present meeting, comprised parties of all shade of opinions, and their proceedings enjoyed the sanction of the Mayor. He had himself signed the requisition—he had assented to the application for the use of the school—and he most cheerfully came forward to move a resolution; for the meeting was held, not in a spirit of animosity, but to pour oil on the waters of discord, and make dissension and division give place to peace and harmony. (Applause.) He felt that he was in his proper place—that he was acting in accordance with the sacred office which he had the honour and the privilege to hold. The question out of which the meeting had arisen, had led to much unpleasant feeling, and, indeed, to much unpleasant conduct. A sort of civil war had raged in the borough. Friends and neighbours had been set at variance; and where there should have been kindly sentiment and good-will, anger and animosity had prevailed. He would not enter into the details of the question at issue between the parties. He was not competent, indeed, to such a task; nor should he think it desirible to do so, even if he were. He would only state, generally, that the question arose, he believed, on the passing of the municipal bill, introducing new elements of power and influence into the borough. Rights inaccurately defined by the law, and the "glorious uncertainty" of its interpretation (laughter), called into existence the "vexed question" of the Borough Property. It had been said, by an acute lawyer, that a coach-and-six might easily be driven through any act of parliament whatsoever; and the Boroughholders, preparatory to trying the experiment with *their* act of parliament, had made a turnpike-road for the coach. (Laughter.) Several of their fellow-townsmen, however, thinking the road not broad enough, had thrown down the walls on each side of it. (Laughter.) Whether the Boroughholders who built the walls, or the inhabitants who, in a paroxysm of indignation, threw them down, were right or wrong in what they did, he would give no opinion. One thing, however, was clear—that the walls had a very different origin to those which rose to the sound of Orpheus' lyre. The walls on the Windmill-hills did not rise through harmony: they rose in dissension, and they fell before the trumpet of discord. Every one must see that matters could not rest where they were. Gateshead had become a byword among her neighbours, and it was high time that something should be done to put an end to the present state of things. Lamentable, however, and even, he might perhaps be permitted to say, scandalous, as were the circumstances to which he had made allusion, they might be turned to good account. The belligerent parties, situated as they now were, would be inclined, he hoped, to listen to the voice of a duly-constituted meeting of the inhabitants, and offer no opposition to the proposed amicable compromise. The Boroughholders, he believed, would be ready to concede the fair demands of their fellow-townsmen. What those demands should be, he was not prepared to suggest; but the most likely compromise, he thought, would be, a concession to the public, for their convenience and recreation, of what had long been practically their own (applause), the houses and other erections being left in the undisturbed possession of the Boroughholders. There might be some difficulties in the way of carrying out such an arrangement. Some thought an act of parliament would be necessary. But however this might be, there was another act which must first be passed, and which he would now propose—an act of amnesty. (Applause.) The past must be forgiven and forgotten. All bickering and contention must cease; differences must be merged; and all parties must combine their efforts to carry out the act he had proposed, and which, he was sure, the meeting would unanimously pass. (Applause.) If he should be enabled, in any measure, to give effect to such an amnesty, he should think it one of the highest privileges which he had been permitted to enjoy in his official position. He had much satisfaction in moving the adoption of the resolution already read. (Applause.)

Mr. William Watson, of Romulus-terrace, seconded the resolution, and it was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Crawshay rose, amidst loud cheers, to move the second resolution, (suggesting, as a compromise, that the Boroughholders should concede to the public the "open parts of the Windmill-hills for pleasure-grounds.") He did not sign the requisition, he said, because he was not in Gateshead when it was in course of signature; but it gave him much pleasure that he had returned in time to take part in the present proceedings—because he hoped they would be productive of great good to Gateshead. He was comparatively a stranger in the borough, and ought almost to apologize for taking any part in its public business. Perhaps, however, the very circumstance of his being a stranger, and, as such, not mixed up in any way with the question of the Borough Property, might qualify him to interfere with better effect. His interference, he could assure the meeting, should be in a friendly spirit. He would endeavour to follow in the path of the respected Rector of the parish, and assist in producing unity and peace. [Mr. Crawshay read his resolution, and continued]:—The Windmill-hills, it must strike every one, were admirably adapted for pleasure-grounds. To build upon them, and appropriate to individuals a site which should be enjoyed by all, would entail everlasting discredit upon the borough. Every morning in his life, since taking up his abode in Gateshead, he had come over the hills; and it was seldom that he did not pause to admire the varied and beautiful prospect which they commanded. The fine town of Newcastle lay before him, with its noble Norman keep and the elegant spires of St. Nicholas; while the glorious vale of the Tyne stretched into the far west, the winding river glittering in the morning sun. (Applause.) In a short time, a high-level bridge would unite Gateshead still more intimately with Newcastle; and the banks of the river, near the Windmill-hills, would become more and more populous. How necessary, then, and how important it was, for the sake of the present generation and of posterity, that the open ground on the hills should be reserved for the recreation of the inhabitants, and as a reservoir (if he might so speak) of pure and wholesome air! He was sure that, if he were to rise some fine morning, and find the hills walled-in and covered over with houses, he should feel that he owed the Boroughholders a grudge. (Laughter.) But he had no expectation that he should ever see anything of the kind. There had been, it would seem, much warm feeling and party-heat, for which every allowance should be made. Those who enjoyed old rights always felt jealous, and very naturally so, when new claimants came in their way. In the present case, he joined in the hope that all that had passed should be forgiven and forgotten, and that the proposed compromise would on all hands be accepted. Let the Boroughholders gracefully concede the open parts of the hills, and they would be rewarded by the esteem of their neighbours, and the approval of their own consciences. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. William Walker having seconded the resolution, it was passed unanimously.

Mr. G. J. Kenmir was received with much applause, when he stood forward to move the third resolution. Having referred to that gratifying sign of the times, the increased attention paid to the comfort and enjoyment of the working classes, and citing, as illustrations of it, the parliamentary grant of money for public walks, and the munificent subscription of Sir Robert Peel in aid of the proposed parks at Manchester, Mr. Kenmir said:—When such a disposition was manifested by the legislature and the government, how ought the wealthier inhabitants of Gateshead to feel affected? Ought they not, also, to consider the obligation which was upon them to provide a place of recreation for the people, where they might enjoy the little

Digitized by Google

leisure they possessed, and breathe the pure air of heaven? He recollected when the banks of the river, from the end of Pipewellgate to Dunston, and from the end of Hillgate to the Tyne Main staiths, were open to the public; but these walks had gradually been lost, as the district had grown in population and in importance; and just in proportion to the increase of that wealth which the working man had assisted to create, his enjoyments, so far as they depended upon pleasant walks, had been diminished. (Cheers.) As a measure, then, of justice, not from the Boroughholders alone, but from the landowners and manufacturers of Gateshead and the neighbourhood, and all who profited by the labour of the people, no more appropriate return could be made, than the conversion of the small estate under consideration into a public pleasure-ground. (Cheers.) The estate being a subject of contention, it followed, as a matter of course, that there must be two parties—two claimants to the property, It was in the possession of the Boroughholders, and the meeting asked them to part with it for a public purpose. The Council claimed it for the public—for the inhabitants; and it was natural to suppose that the Council, on learning the wishes of a public meeting of the inhabitants, convened and held like the present, would be governed by those wishes, and do all that lay in their power to carry them into effect. (Applause.) He would only add, that a small committee had recently waited upon Mr. Ellison—(a gentleman who had always liberally supported the charities and institutions of Gateshead); and he had expressed himself favourable to the project suggested in the resolutions, and promised to support it as much as he could. (Applause.)

Mr. R. S. Newall seconded the resolution.

Mr. J. Blagburn expressed an opinion that the candidates for reëlection on the 1st of November should give a pledge on the subject of the Windmill-hills. He then recited a piece of poetry in praise of rural walks and fresh air, and concluded with a compliment to the Rector.

The resolution was put from the chair, and unanimously adopted by the meeting.

Mr. John Greene moved the fourth resolution. It would be a proud day to him, he said, to see the Windmill-hills secured to the public as a pleasure-ground, and a project thereby carried out which his ancestors had assisted to frame. (Applause.) He was sorry that ever an attempt had been made to deprive the public of the hills; and now that the unanimous wish of the parish had been so emphatically expressed, he could not think that the Boroughholders would hesitate for a moment to grant the request of the inhabitants. (Applause.) In fact, the proposed arrangement would be a boon to the Boroughholders, for it would materially enhance the value of their property. (Applause.)

Mr. T. Cummins seconded the resolution. With regard, he said, to what had fallen from Mr. Blagburn, he could only say that he was prepared to go any length to carry out the objects of the meeting; and he would have much pleasure in contributing, to the best of his ability, towards the conversion of the hills into pleasure-grounds. (Cheers.)

The Mayor, before putting the resolution to the meeting, observed, in reply to Mr. Blagburn, that in his character of a Boroughholder he had opposed the building of the walls on the hills, (loud cheers); and having taken the chair at the present meeting, it would ill become him to oppose the object of it out of doors. (Renewed cheers.)

The resolution was unanimously passed.

Mr. Revely, in moving the fifth resolution, referred to the severe labour of those artisans who, in the glass and iron works of Gateshead, earned their bread by the sweat of their brows, and who each occupied but one single room. In this apartment the inmates had to sleep—to cook—to wash; and what would be their condition if, the hills being built upon, and their drying-ground lost to them, they were obliged, also, to dry their clothes at home! In going round with his friend Mr. Cummins, to procure signatures to the requisition, nothing struck him so forcibly as the strong interest which the humbler classes took in its object. The warmest gratitude was expressed to the promoters of the project, and many were the lips which "wished to Heaven" they might succeed. (Applause.) The more wealthy classes stated their readiness to subscribe. One instance of this kind gave him peculiar pleasure. Mr. Cummins and he were walking along the street, when they fell in with the son of a Boroughholder—his old friend the Mayor. They stopped, and showed the requisition to young Mr. Kenmir—(he hoped he might call him his friend)—and he not only promptly consented to attach his name, but said that he would gladly give £5 in aid of a project which he so warmly approved. (Applause.) He (Mr. Revely) would gladly give his £5 also. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. W. Parkinson seconded the resolution, and said—He believed he had been asked to take part in the proceedings of the meeting, because he was in some degree connected with Boroughholders. Those gentlemen, he was sure, would cheerfully concur in the wishes of the meeting. (Applause.) He could assure the meeting the Boroughholders comprised many men of fine feelings, who would shrink from opposing the excellent project now under consideration. That project, indeed, it was the interest no less than the duty of manufacturers and other employers to promote; for public walks and pleasure grounds tended to elevate and refine the people, and to benefit both themselves and those whom they served. (Applause.)

The resolution was unanimously adopted, and Mr. Crawshay proposed that the meeting should also unanimously subscribe. (Laughter.) He was authorized to put Mr. Hawks down for £10, and he would also subscribe £10 himself. (Loud cheers.) It was of the utmost importance that, in the words of the resolution, the subscription should be commenced "forthwith;" because it would show that the inhabitants were determined, in some way or other, to have possession of the hills for public purposes. (Loud cheers.)

The Rector remarked, that Mr. Crawshay evidently knew, from his professional experience, the importance of "striking while the iron was hot." (Laughter.) So saying, the Doctor put his own name down for £10.

The Mayor said, as Mr. Blagburn was inclined to doubt his attachment to the project under consideration, perhaps he would be glad of an additional pledge. He would therefore put his name down for £5. (Laughter and applause.)

Mr. Blagburn: That's the very way to come over me, Mr. Mayor. (Laughter.)

Several additional subscriptions were made; and the list (*see advt.*) was read by the Town Clerk amidst vociferous cheers.

Mr. W. Brown moved a vote of thanks to Dr. Davies, for the use of the school; which was seconded by Mr. C. J. Pearson, and carried by acclamation.

The Rector returned thanks; expressed the pleasure which he had derived from the proceedings; and said the requisitionists were well entitled to the use of the school, for the scholars had an interest in the use of the hills. (Laughter.) He was happy to add, that his esteemed predecessor, Mr. Collinson, and also Mr. Ellison, entirely accorded with the meeting in their views. Perhaps he might also state, without any breach of confidence, that Mr. Ellison had assured him of his full intention and understanding, at the time the act of parliament was passed, that the hills should be reserved for the use of the inhabitants. (Loud cheers.)

On the motion of Mr. J. R. Wilson, the thanks of the meeting were given to the Mayor by acclamation.

The Mayor, in acknowledging the compliment, declared that no individual in the room was more anxious than himself to see the object of the meeting carried into effect.

Whereupon Mr. Blagburn exclaimed that Gateshead never had a better Mayor than the present; and the meeting having given "three times three" for his Worship and the Windmill-hills, the proceedings came to a close.

On Wednesday evening, October 16, the committee met at the Borough Arms, (Mr. John Greene in the chair). There was a full attendance, and a spirit of unanimity pervaded the proceedings. It was resolved that a sub-committee should be appointed, with power to negotiate an arrangement in the terms of the resolutions passed at the public meeting; and the appointment having been made, the Secretary (Mr. John Greene) was instructed to write to the Stewards of the Borough Property, enclosing a copy of the resolutions of the inhabitants and of the committee, and requesting the Boroughholders to appoint a committee of their body to conduct the negotiations in their behalf.

The Secretary was also instructed to transmit a copy of the resolutions of the public meeting to the Council.

Digitized by Google

Mr. Joshua Greene, jun., and Mr. R. S. Newall, were added to the committee.

Thanks were given to the Chairman, on the motion of George Hawks, Esq., and the meeting was adjourned to Monday, the 4th of November.

The future meetings of the committee will be held, with the consent of the Mayor, in the old townhall, Oakwellgate.

THE WINDMILL-HILLS.

AT a PUBLIC MEETING, of the Inhabitants of the Borough of Gateshead, convened by the Mayor in compliance with a Requisition of 291 Inhabitants of the Borough, and held in the National School for Boys in Barn-close, on Monday, the 14th of October, 1844, to take into consideration the best means of uniting with the Boroughholders and Freemen in rendering the Windmill-hills more available as a place of recreation to the Public, and also to consider the propriety of applying to Government for a portion of the Parliamentary Grant for the Formation of Public Walks in large Towns, and on other business connected therewith, (the Worshipful THE MAYOR in the Chair,) it was resolved unanimously:—

On the motion of the Rev. Dr. DAVIES, Rector of Gateshead,

Seconded by Mr. WILLIAM WATSON,

1. That the discord and dissension which have long existed respecting the borough property are much to be deplored, and any amicable compromise which would set the question at rest, and advance the public welfare, is deserving the best attention and support of this meeting.

On the motion of GEORGE CRAWSHAY, Esq.,

Seconded by WILLIAM WALKER, Esq.,

2. That inasmuch as part of the property is desirably situated for public park or pleasure grounds, and its dedication to such a purpose would be a handsome benefaction to the inhabitants at large, the Boroughholders and Freemen be requested to grant their interest in the open parts of the Windmill-hills to the public for pleasure grounds.

On the motion of G. J. KENMIR, Esq.,

Seconded by R. S. NEWALL, Esq.,

3. That the Town Council be desired to concur in the proposed arrangement, and to lend their aid and influence in promoting the objects of the meeting.

On the motion of JOHN GREENE, Esq.,

Seconded by Mr. CUMMINS,

4. That a copy of the resolutions of the meeting be transmitted to the Boroughholders and Freemen and the Town Council, and that the following gentlemen be appointed to conduct the necessary negotiations on the part of the inhabitants, viz.:—

The Rev. Dr. Davies.	Mr. William Brown.
Mr. George J. Kenmir.	Mr. John Fawcett.
Mr. Thomas H. Apedaile.	Mr. William Parkinson.
Mr. W. L. Harle.	Mr. George Crawshay.
Mr. George Hawks.	Mr. William Walker.
Mr. Thomas Revely.	Mr. Joseph Robson.
Mr. Thomas Cummins.	Mr. Frederick Glenton.
Mr. C. J. Pearson.	Mr. Cornelius Garbutt.
Mr. William Wylam.	Mr. John George Abbot.
Mr. James Clephan.	Mr. John Greene.
Mr. John Angus.	Mr. S. E. Pearse.
Mr. William Douglas.	Mr. C. F. Springmann.

With power to add to their number.

On the motion of Mr. REVELY,

Seconded by Mr. WILLIAM PARKINSON,

5. That in the event of the negotiations being successful, an application be made to Government for part of the parliamentary grant of money for public walks, and that a public subscription be entered into forthwith.

On the motion of Mr. WILLIAM BROWN,

Seconded by Mr. C. J. PEARSON, and carried by acclamation,

6. That the thanks of the meeting be given to the Rev. Dr. Davies for the use of the National School.

W. KENMIR, Mayor.

The Mayor having left the chair,

It was moved by Mr. JOSEPH REED WILSON,

And carried by acclamation,

7. That the thanks of the meeting be given to the Worshipful the Mayor, for his kind compliance with the wishes of the requisitionists, and for his services in the chair.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Rev. John Davies, D.D.	£10	0	0
Rev. John Collinson	10	0	0
George Hawks, Esq.	10	0	0
George Crawshay, Esq	10	0	0
G. J. Kenmir, Esq.	10	0	0
John Greene, Esq.	10	0	0
William Kell, Esq.	10	0	0
William Brown, Esq.	10	0	0
R. S. Newall, Esq.	10	0	0
Mr. William Rowntree	5	5	0
William Walker, Esq.	5	5	0
William Kenmir, Esq. (Mayor)	5	0	0
William Wylam, Esq.	5	0	0
Joshua Greene, jun., Esq.	5	0	0
William Parkinson, Esq.	5	0	0
Mr. Thomas Cummins	5	0	0
Mr. Thomas Revely	5	0	0
Mr. T. H. Apedaile	5	0	0
Mr. William G. Greene	5	0	0
Mr. Charles J. Pearson	5	0	0
Mr. Charles I'Anson	5	0	0
Mr. Henry Brady	5	0	0
Borough Lodge of Freemasons	5	0	0
Mr. John Davidson	5	0	0
Mr. T. C. Angus	3	3	0
Mr. William Cook	2	2	0
Mr. Benjamin Matchitt	2	2	0
Mr. Bryan J. Prockter	1	1	0
Mr. Richard Garlick	1	1	0
Mr. Thomas Wardman	1	1	0
Mr. James Botcherby	1	0	0
Mr. James Clephan	1	0	0
Mr. James Hewitt	1	0	0
Mr. Henry Harrison	1	0	0
Mr. John Robson	1	0	0
Mr. Thomas Newton	1	0	0
Mr. John Angus	1	0	0
Mr. J. F. Brett	1	0	0
Mr. William Watson	1	0	0
Mr. John Watson	1	0	0
Mr. F. P. Ionn	1	0	0
Mr. Francis Bennett	1	0	0
Mr. F. W. Linsley	1	0	0
Mr. William Douglas	1	0	0
Mr. R. Pratt	0	10	0
Mr. C. F. Springmann	0	5	0
Mr. John Blagburn	0	5	0

☞ Subscribers' Names will be received at Mr. Akenhead's, Sandhill, Newcastle; at Messrs. Greene & Sons, High-street, Gateshead; and at the *Observer* office.

PUBLIC DINNER TO W. HUTT, ESQ., M.P. FOR GATESHEAD.

THE attendance at the public dinner given to Mr. Hutt, the worthy representative of this borough, on Tuesday, Oct. 15, was, as we anticipated, crowded. Arrangements had been made for 80 gentlemen, but, at the appointed hour, a greater number of candidates for seats at the table presented themselves, and several were fain to dine in an adjoining room, and join the company in the hall after dinner. The total number that sat down was 94.

The entertainment took place, as was announced, in the new townhall—(the house near the Newcastle and Darlington railway-station, formerly occupied by Edmund Graham, Esq.) The large room, the future council-chamber of Gateshead, had been tastefully renovated by Messrs. Cummins & Firbank. The ceiling and the walls were papered in imitation of oak-panelling, and with excellent effect. A portrait of the late Earl of Durham, by Ellerby, was placed over the seat of the President, and the room was adorned with many other paintings, and also with a variety of exquisite bouquets.

Before the arrival of the company, the hall was thrown open to the inspection of our fair neighbours, and not a few availed themselves of the privilege. The taste with which the banqueting-room was ornamented, and the tables were "set out,"

Digitized by Google

was warmly admired and applauded by these competent critics; and when the "lords of the creation," for whose entertainment the feast was prepared, had enjoyed that "proof of the pudding" which consists "in the eating," they were unanimous in their compliments to the caterer and cook, Miss Murray, the fair hostess of the Half Moon inn. The celerity with which the turtle-soup moved off far exceeded a turtle's pace; rounds of beef went the rapid round of the room in savoury slices; game was "strong on the wing;" sucking pigs disappeared so quickly that the company might have been mistaken for a convocation of the clergy; "turkey" was dismembered, and the "porte" engulphed; "trifles" passed to and fro, "light as air;" champagne-bottles, ejaculating their corks in all directions, were lovingly clapsed by anti-Mathewites, and sparkling and creaming draughts gladdened their eyes and rejoiced their palates. Strange to say, although literally living "from hand to mouth," the party seemed as happy as if they were "living in clover;" and complacency beamed in every countenance, when the cloth was removed, and the dessert placed upon the board.

The Worshipful the MAYOR now presided over a company whom good fare had made merry and social. On his right sat the Guest of the evening (Mr. Hutt), Savile Ogle, Esq., M.P. for South Northumberland, Viscount Howick, M.P. for Sunderland, William Cookson, Esq., Sheriff and Councillor of Newcastle, and Ralph Carr, Esq., of Dunston Hill. On his left, William Ord, Esq., M.P. for Newcastle, Henry Mitcalfe, Esq., M.P. for Tynemouth, T. C. Granger, Esq., M.P. for Durham, and Sir John Fife, Mayor of Newcastle. GEORGE HAWKS, Esq., J.P., occupied the vice-chair; supported on the one hand by Mr. Ald. Wilson, of Fell House, G. H. Ramsay, Esq., J.P., of Derwent Villa, and Capt. Dinsdale, of Newsham; and on the other, by Dr. Turner, Mr. Ald. Brockett, J.P., and Councillor W. L. Harle. Among the other gentlemen present were Henry Morton, Esq., of Lambton; John Cookson, Esq., of Whitehill; Dr. White; Ald. Headlam, M.D. and J.P.; Ald. Potter, J.P.; Ald. Pollock, J.P.; Ald. Davis, J.P.; Ald. Hodgson; Ald. Donkin; Councillor Philipson, J.P.; Councillors Armstrong, Ormston, and Hunter (Master of the Trinity House), Newcastle; Councillors Dunn, Cummins, Revely, Hymers, Potts, Garbutt, and Sowerby, Gateshead; Councillors Moore, French, and Hutchinson, Sunderland; Councillor Brignal, Durham; Joseph Cowen, Esq., Chairman of the Gateshead Union; Mr. H. Morton, jun.; Christian Allhusen, Esq., Newcastle; H. L. Pattinson, Joseph Price, Francis Bennett, William Wylam, and William Walker, Esqrs., Gateshead; Messrs. R. W. Hodgson, Thomas Sopwith, Henry Nelson, John Fairbairn, William Teasdale, R. Clay, and Benjamin Green, Newcastle; Messrs. J. & R. Laycock, Winlaton; Messrs. William Barkus, George Boyd, W. J. M. Lange, J. G. Abbot, T. Ramsay, John Barkus, Philip Smith, John Sowerby, Jonathan Robson, B. Matchitt, William Barkus, jun., John Colman, C. J. Pearson, William Douglas, Thomas Wilson, jun., Henry Harrison, T. R. Davidson, John Vickers, John Wright, John Angus, J. Hewitt, T. Murray, — Brankston, J. H. Gray, and James Botcherby, Gateshead, &c., &c., &c.

During (and for some time previous to) the dinner, Messrs. Hawks & Crawshay's band entertained the company with popular airs and other pieces of music; but the musicians took their departure with the cloth, and the MAYOR then gave, in quick succession, the royal toasts, "The Queen," "Prince Albert," "The Prince of Wales and his Royal Brother and Sisters," and "The Queen Dowager and the rest of the Royal Family," all of which were drunk with due honour and respect. The next toast, "The Army and Navy," was briefly acknowledged by Captain DINSDALE, (in obedience to a general call from the company).

The MAYOR again rose, and said:—Mr. Vice-Chairman and Gentlemen, I rise on this occasion with great pleasure, to request you to do honour to the gentleman who has given us his countenance and company this evening. (Loud and prolonged cheering.) The toast which I have to propose is the health of him whom we have the good fortune to call our member. (Renewed cheering.) I am not aware whether Mr. Hutt feels at all proud of his constituents (laughter), but I am very sure they are all proud of him. (Applause.) It is well known that he is fully competent to represent the largest county or borough in the kingdom. How fortunate, then, are we, to have so excellent a member! (Applause.) It may be said that we have very little for him to do; but that little we wish to have well done. (Laughter.) You all know how diligently and how ably it is performed. Whenever we have occasion to communicate with our representative, our communications are promptly and courteously attended to: they are never in any instance neglected. It is seldom that we have occasion to send a deputation to London, but we once had (laughter):—we had to send our mayor, George Sowerby, Esq., with addresses to the Queen and Prince Albert; and it was highly grateful to our feelings to hear his report of the kindness shown to him by the borough member. (Applause.) Mr. Hutt's attentions were beyond description. He assisted us in our object in every possible way; and Mr. Sowerby represented to us the arduous nature of our member's duties in London, and the singular industry with which they were performed—thereby making himself useful, not only to his constituents, but to the whole people of this great empire. (Applause.) We should, indeed, be proud of such a representative. We have not, as I said before, a great deal for him to do; but when he runs out of work for Gateshead (laughter), he always has work to do for other constituencies. His old friends in Hull frequently apply to him for his services. If an elector of Hull is advised to apply to Mr. Hutt for aid, he will perhaps say, "Why, what claim have we now to his good offices?" "O!" replies his adviser, "try him: he readily assented to the last application made to him from Hull, and depend upon it he will not refuse the next." Such is the character which our member enjoys among his old constituents; and if further proof be required to establish his claims to our confidence, look to my right hand and to my left. (Loud cheers.) It is a high honour to Gateshead that such gentlemen should come amongst us, considering the character we bear. (Great laughter.) The remarks made upon us in parliament, Mr. Vice-Chairman, are notorious. We were sneered at as the *violet* of the Reform Bill (laughter), and our town was described as nothing better than "a long dirty lane leading into Newcastle." (Loud laughter.) And yet we are not thought beneath the notice of the noble lord Howick (loud and protracted cheering)—the son of one of the brightest statesmen ever produced by the north of England. (Renewed cheers.) His lordship, walking in the light of his venerable father's example, is no mean ornament to this room and no mean honour to Mr. Hutt. (Loud applause.) On my left sits Mr. Ord, the veteran member for Newcastle, (cheers,) who has faithfully and honestly served his country in the House of Commons for the space of forty years. He should know who in parliament is entitled to gratitude and respect, and he is here to do honour to Mr. Hutt. (Applause.) We have also amongst us Mr. Ogle, one of the members for South Northumberland, (cheers,) and Mr. Mitcalfe, the member for Tynemouth, (cheers,) and Mr. Granger, the member for Durham. (Cheers.) With such proofs before you of the estimation in which our representative is held, the humble testimony which I have borne to his worth can surely need no further support. But if it should, I am still provided; for we have the chief magistrate of Newcastle, Sir John Fife, at our festive board, (loud cheers,) together with several of his colleagues—all of them anxious to do honour to Mr. Hutt. And they are in the right of it; for although our member's hands may be thought to be full with Gateshead and Hull, he can still find time to be of service to Newcastle; and our neighbours may occasionally stand in need of his talents, notwithstanding they have already two excellent business-members of their own. (Applause.) I see, also, magistrates for the county here (applause)—and the active and able chairman of our board of guardians (applause), and a whole host of other good men and true. It is a proud day for Gateshead, and one of the happiest days in my life. (Applause.) I call upon you, Mr. Vice-Chairman and gentlemen, to fill a bumper, and drink the toast which I have the pleasure to propose:—"William Hutt, Esq., M.P., and thanks to him for the zealous, indefatigable, and efficient manner in which he discharges his duties as member for this borough." (Enthusiastic applause, followed by three times three, and one cheer more.)

Mr. HUTT, on rising to reply, was received with renewed cheering. He said:—Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice-President, and Gentlemen, I am certain that I need not assure you that I am deeply gratified by all the compliments you have paid me this day. Under any circumstances in which I might be placed, I could not have witnessed, without proud satisfaction, the con-

Digitized by Google

currence of so many enlightened and honourable men in my favour; but in my actual position—united with you by so many sympathies in private life, and by the important public relations which unite constituents and representatives—I have realized one of the highest objects of my ambition in these demonstrations of your unabated confidence and good-will. (Cheers.) The Mayor has had the goodness to say that I have done something to deserve them. I am delighted to believe that exertions which in their results have often fallen short of my own expectations, have not wholly disappointed yours; but I know that for this generous appreciation of them I am largely your debtor; and I know also that public favour, confidence, and support, have not always been the portion of those whose claims to them exceed anything to which I am ever likely to aspire. And gratifying as such tributes of approval are, I doubt much whether, in the present state of political society in this country, it is any part of a well-instructed mind over-anxiously to expect them. (Hear, hear.) Were I offering advice to a friend about to enter on the precarious scenes of public life—especially if I saw that he was influenced by any of those ardent feelings and sanguine hopes by which I dare say many of us were accompanied on our outset—I would say to him, "Do not imagine that, in the world of politics, there is any necessary connection between disinterested exertions and success. Do not imagine that public utility will be always recognized, or long and laborious services uniformly requited. To other aims—to less precarious recompense—you must elevate your ambition. A bad institution amended—an unjust statute repealed—conscience released from the penalties of human law—ports thrown open to the free intercourse of commerce (cheers)—education made accessible to the humblest and most friendless of the poor—these are triumphs for which you must contend—and you must think yourself sufficiently rewarded if they have been in any way promoted by your efforts. Above all, do not repine—complain neither of ingratitude nor injustice—if, after years of self-sacrifice for the advance of human improvement, those who have most obstructed your progress should suddenly step in—encumber you with assistance—and assume to themselves all the credit of your labours and your devotion." (Cheering.) Am I wrong when I say that, in the present state of this country, popular favour, political power, and distinction, are not always the recompense of honest statesmanship and ability? Am I wrong when I say they are too frequently the prizes of successful intrigue, dissimulation, and apostacy? (Hear, hear.) Recal for one moment the kind of agitation which the Conservative party had been long keeping up throughout the country, when I first became politically connected with Gateshead. Recal the means by which that party laid the foundation of their present ascendancy. It was, to use an expression employed by Lord Morpeth in the House of Commons, by a system of mendacious misrepresentation—it was by inflaming the public mind against every suggestion of a liberal policy. Prejudices so gross that every body now forswears them, were insisted upon as undeniable truths—passions which were scarcely compatible with civil society were encouraged at their "monster meetings" under the name of patriotism—and religious intolerance—especially of Catholics—intolerance blind and bitter—in direct contradiction to the mercy and wisdom of the Gospel—was pronounced, by these reckless agitators, the Christianity of the Church of England—the reformed religion of the land. (Hear, hear.) Why, the throne itself could not secure its youthful and illustrious occupant from their calumnies and their insults. (Hear, hear.) Free trade, gentlemen—free trade—has been pronounced by her Majesty's ministers a sound and valuable principle of commercial legislation; and they have treated it with much lip-worship. But in the time which I speak of, when power was yet to be won by their party, it was the scoff of every simpleton and the jest of every buffoon. (Cheers.) It was the special subject of the factious acrimony of Lords and Commons, clergy and laymen, newspaper-writers and pamphleteers. The whole Conservative party was bent on nothing so much as the holding up free-trade to the country as the wild and mischievous delusion of Liberalism. We have recently had a very edifying homily preached to us from Barnsley, on the subject of national education. The Lord President of the Council has discovered that the secular instruction of the poor ought to be carefully looked after by the State, and that it ought to be offered to them without any attempt to influence their religious opinions. We have heard, I think, that doctrine before. (Cheers and laughter.) Aye! but when Lord John Russell professed it, and attempted to do that by legislative enactment which Lord Wharncliffe is proposing to do without any enactment at all, the whole Conservative population of these islands was thrown into convulsions by the mention of so irreligious a design. It was a system of Pantheism. Country-gentlemen could not sleep in peace, on account of their zeal for the spiritual welfare of the poor, menaced by Lord John Russell. Lord Ashley, amid what newspapers sometimes call "tremendous cheering," signified his intention to move a call of the house, to deliberate on the alarming proposition; and so completely was the party organized for political agitation and conspiracy, that petitions against the measure were immediately got up, and poured in from all parts of the country, fiercely denouncing it. The table of the House of Commons groaned under them. There are some around me who well recollect, that for half an hour each day before the public business was undertaken, we used to sit listening to a perpetual chorus of prayers, almost as monotonous as the scream of one of these locomotives [a railway-train was passing at the moment], that parliament would grant no money for education, except in connection with the doctrines of the established church. This shameless avowal of bigotry was not made only by men like Sir Robert Inglis. Sir Robert Inglis (good man!) I have no doubt honestly adheres to it still; for he holds his seat by the same tenure as some men hold their estates—on condition of keeping alive, on special occasions, some absurdities of the dark ages. (Laughter.) This was the clamour of the whole Conservative party. It was boldly adopted by Lord Ashley, to whom Sir Robert Peel offered a place in his government; by Lord Stanley, the Secretary for the Colonies, and colleague of Lord Wharncliffe; and the notion, though not exactly publicly recognized by the dextrous Sir Robert Peel as his own child, was yet smiled upon, on useful occasions, with a sort of paternal affection. He did not clasp it to his heart, but he dandled it on his knees—said it was a charming child—and evidently wished it to pass, without any positive declaration on his part, as his own. (Laughter.) Now I will not proceed any further in this history, for it becomes tedious from its length, and the uniformity of its profligacy. You remember the clamour systematically kept up against the poor-law—against the factory-bills—against that just, honest, and liberal policy by which the late government gave peace and contentment to the Irish people. (Applause.) You remember the exasperation against the Reform party created by these vile means. Oh! it was a dastardly proceeding! (Loud cheers.) The Conservatives did not attempt to make the people dissatisfied with their condition, by seeking to make them wiser, better, happier than they were: they did not attempt to outbid those at the head of affairs, by emulating the wise in wisdom, or the good in liberality and benevolence. Their designs were to be accomplished by debasing the spirit of the people—by inflaming their passions and darkening their prejudices: they were to secure their unholy dominion on the basis of public ignorance, bigotry, and dishonour. (Loud cheering.) Well, gentlemen, they succeeded. They got their majority. They made Sir Robert Peel Prime Minister; they made Lord Lyndhurst Lord Chancellor; her Majesty's cabinet obtained the benefit of Sir Edward Knatchbull's sagacity; and the fortunes of our eastern empire rejoiced under the discretion of Lord Ellenborough. And now they have "to ravel-out their weaved-up follies." They have now to pay the troublesome penalties of their duplicity and disingenuous conduct.

> Oh! what a tangled web we weave,
> When once we venture to deceive.

(Applause.) All the partisans of their cause, in 1841, were not, like themselves, clamouring to mislead others. Some sincerely believed that religious intolerance, commercial monopoly, and popular ignorance, were the only true faith, the only objects of wise legislation. Of the multitude whom the last general election sent to parliament to support the cause of Conservatism, a remnant heard with dismay that the Peel government was to support free-trade, and schools, and poor-law bills, and factory acts. They did not understand the credit that was to be acquired by such shameless ratting. They would not tamely yield to their political *Petruchios*, and swear that to be the sun which a short interval before they took their oaths was the moon. (Laughter.) The consequence is, that this powerful and suc-

Digitized by Google

cessful government has pursued its agitated course amid intestine quarrels, and reconciliations, and menaces, and compromises—with some threats, too, of resignation. Twice in the course of the last session the affairs of government were brought to a dead-lock; and it requires little of the gift of prophecy to foresee, that in the next session the same dignified scenes must again be repeated. And if this were all, there might perhaps be small matter for regret. We cannot be supposed to feel any deep sorrow that power so acquired should be an annoyance and embarrassment to its possessors. But the evil does not end here. I fear the effects of such conduct is tainting the morality of the country. Wherever men in high places, who are regarded as national leaders, substitute the selfish and the grovelling, for the pure, the noble, and the disinterested—wherever they treat political honour as a romance and consistency as a folly—depend upon it, in that country, wherever it may be, the whole range of public life will, ere long, bear fatal evidence of the poison they have instilled. (Hear, hear.) It is sometimes alleged as an excuse for error, that it is honest and sincere; and certainly the mistakes of well-intentioned minds—the fears of the brave and the follies of the wise—are entitled to every indulgence. Conscientious conviction, however erroneous, maintained in opposition to self-interest—at loss, at peril—is an object of general admiration and respect. There was, some years ago, an old woman at Carlisle— Mrs. Gordon—who was drowned by the mob for her Jacobite opinions. They ducked her in the Eden. But every time the heroic old lady got her head above water, till she was smothered outright, she bawled out, "Charlie yet!" (Laughter.) Her Majesty's ministers, and their backers, have been the very reverse of all this; and if their honesty and sincerity had been all lumped together, it would not have made up half of this poor woman's single-minded good faith. They indeed called out "Charlie yet," and clamoured for Jacobitism; but it was only to get them out of the difficulties and degradation in which they were prostrated. The moment they succeeded, and saw themselves entrenched in power, they put their principles in their pockets—or, rather, they trampled them under foot. (Applause.) Well! I think we have had ocular demonstration of some of those, for whose elevation all these intrigues were practised, sickening over the worthless trophy which they have grasped at such a sacrifice. The Conservatives boast that we are defeated—and it is true; but we can look back on our past career without repining and without remorse. It has not led us to success, but it is not strewed with broken promises nor paltry dissimulations nor vile apostacies, nor any of the remnants of that melancholy game on which they have exhausted so much of energy and of character. (Loud cheers.) To us it is of little importance what party is triumphant, so that the great principles of civil, religious, and commercial liberty direct the councils of our country. These are our objects; and in the straight and honourable road which leads to them, and which we have so long trod together, we will continue, whoever may be our competitors or our victors, steadily to advance.

For Honesty is still the same,
Whether it win or lose the game:
True as the dial to the sun,
Although it be not shined upon.

(The honourable member resumed his seat in the midst of loud cheers, which were prolonged for some time.)

Mr. Hutt again rose, and said:—I have now to propose a toast which, I am sure, my friends who have honoured me by their presence on this occasion will receive with pleasure; for it relates to those by whose favour and authority I take my place in the House of Commons. (Cheers.) In proposing "Health and Prosperity to the Electors of Gateshead," I am anxious to say a few words on a subject which has created considerable feeling within the precincts of the borough. I am alluding to my opinions respecting free-trade. (Prolonged applause.) And I take this opportunity of explaining myself in regard to it, because I choose rather to be the interpreter of my own sentiments, than that that office should be assumed by the *Tyne Mercury*, or any of its curious correspondents. (Hear, hear.) Some of my friends will, I dare say, recollect, that in the first address which I published to the electors of Gateshead, I stated that, in my view, the real policy of this country was to buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest markets. (Cheers.) Those words have since being repeated by a personage of great importance. But when I said so, I meant what I said. I contemplated no exceptions to my doctrine. Above all, I did not mean to except corn, or cattle, or coffee, or sugar, or any other commodity of ordinary and extensive demand. (Hear, hear.) I may not share all the opinions which I have heard put forth by men of distinguished ability on the results of a free trade in corn. I do not believe that a total repeal of the corn-laws would lead to large annual importations of corn from abroad, and consequently to considerable reduction of the price of corn at home. And disbelieving this predicted result, I reject the inference which the corn-law supporters have deduced from it, namely, that large tracts of inferior soil in this country, on the cultivation of which vasts sums of money have been expended, must be abandoned, and that large bodies of labouring men must consequently be added to those for whose labour the country already offers very ill-paid and precarious employment. I cannot discover where the foreign grain is to come from that is to produce all these changes. The greatest amount of foreign corn which, in times of very high prices and free importation, has ever been brought to our shores, has been but insignificant. With moderate prices at home, that quantity must still further be diminished. I am quite prepared to apply to the importation of corn those same principles of free trade and national economy which I wish to see applied to every other department of commerce. (Cheers.) I look upon our protecting duties as absurdities, or something worse than absurdities:—worse, because they are imposed with the hope of plundering one man in order to pamper another (applause)—and absurd, because these duties in reality neither pamper nor protect, but really injure both of the parties they affect. A few years ago it was the practice of some persons to carry about with them, when going to scenes of violence, small implements singularly adapted for knocking out a man's brains—and these were facetiously called "life protectors!" In styling monopoly-regulations protecting duties, persons have adopted, it seems to me, a similarly whimsical misnomer. (Laughter.) I distinguish, however, between duties levied for purposes of monopoly, and duties levied for purposes of revenue. I know no reason why a revenue is not to be raised from foreign corn, if it be necessary to raise it from the importation of other necessaries of life. That, however, is a matter of very subordinate importance. Now, then, agreeing, as I think we all cordially do agree, on the broad, general principles of commercial policy, let us not go to loggerheads about trifles:—let us not be quarrelling, like *Sir Archie* and *Sir Callaghan* in the play, about *Sir Archie's* great-grandmother. (Laughter.) Depend upon it, that if we are to succeed, as I trust we shall, in compelling sound, practical, unreserved free trade, on the adoption of the government, it is not by listening to the suggestions of busy and designing persons, who will be glad enough to throw confusion into our ranks—it is not by seeking for points of difference, and hunting for sources of variance—that we shall prevail:—we must secure union and compactness in our ranks, and an able and powerful leader to direct our operations. (Cheers.) An able and powerful leader we shall not want, so long as the country can command the services of one who is very near me. (Enthusiastic and long-protracted cheering.) Let us take care that we do not throw away the other elements of success. It may be said that this is interested advice. Be it so. It may still be of value, and I am sure that it is offered in all sincerity of heart. I wish the electors of Gateshead to exhibit to the world the same example of sagacity, and determination, and patriotism, on the corn question, which they have always afforded on every other. Perhaps with no wish more appropriate to my position can I conclude my address or recommend my toast to your favour. "Health and Prosperity to the Electors of Gateshead." (Three times three.)

Ald. Pollock proposed "The Bishop of Durham, and the clergy of all denominations within his diocese." (Loud cheers.)

Dr. Headlam rose and said:—Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen, I rely on the hospitable feeling of this company, and of the country at large, to give a hearty welcome to the toast and sentiment which I have risen to propose:—"King Louis Philippe, and may peace and friendship long subsist between England and France." (Loud cheers.) Such a toast would be well received at all times, and I was certain you would receive it with especial warmth at this moment, when, if the King of the French be not still the guest of our gracious Queen, he can only recently have left our shores. It must be evident to every one, that it is a peculiarly fortunate circumstance, not only to France and England, but to the whole world, that the two

Digitized by Google

countries are ruled by monarchs so excellent as our amiable Queen Victoria and the able and sagacious Louis Philippe. (Applause.) The King of the French has been nursed in the best school for those who are wise enough to profit by its lessons—the school of adversity. (Hear, hear.) He knows that the true interests of a country depend, not on war and bloodshed, but on the progress of the arts and sciences—on religion—and on national prosperity; and while France and England are determined to be friends, no power on earth can disturb the peace of the world. (Loud cheers.) I have the honour to propose the health of "King Louis Philippe, and may peace and friendship long subsist between England and France." (Three times three.)

Sir JOHN FIFE was loudly cheered on rising to propose "The Mayor and Corporation of Gateshead." After referring to the doubts which had been entertained, in some quarters, of the propriety of organizing Gateshead into a corporation, and to the dispersion of those doubts by the benefits conferred on the borough by its municipal representatives, Sir John Fife alluded to the speech of Mr. Hutt, and observed that the defeat of the Liberal party, and the restoration of the Tories to power, showed that the electoral constituency had not a basis sufficiently broad. (Cheers.) The representation of the country should be real and tangible, and it would then lead to tangible results. (Cheers.) In conclusion, the Mayor of Newcastle expressed a hope that the sister-boroughs would shortly be more intimately united by means of a high-level bridge, and gave the toast of "The Mayor and Corporation of Gateshead." (Three times three.)

The MAYOR, in responding to the toast, remarked that Sir John, when he recalled the opposition that was made to the enfranchisement of Gateshead, had "hit the right nail on the head." The opponents of the measure had looked at the votes given by the freeholders of Gateshead in parliamentary elections, and had no desire to give them greater power. They knew that the electors were not men to be huddled together in an inn, and driven to the poll like oxen, but were truly free and independent. (Cheers.) They were too spirited to be slaves, and no wonder that some men should wish to give them as little additional power as possible. He thanked Sir John for the kind manner in which he had proposed the toast, and concurred with him in hoping that Newcastle and Gateshead would daily become truer and better friends. (Applause.)

Mr. W. L. HARLE rose to propose the health of a tried and true Reformer, Mr. William Ord, the Liberal member for Newcastle. (Loud and long-continued cheering.) This venerable gentleman having been in public life nearly half-a-century (cries of "No, no," and laughter), had seen the great cause of Reform ebb and flow; and, under its present depression, it must cheer his heart to witness the noble demonstration now made in honour of his friend Mr. Hutt and of liberal principles. (Cheers.) It must strengthen his hopes of the future triumph of Reform, and encourage him to lend every assistance in his power to the emancipation of Newcastle from its present discreditable neutrality. (Cheers.) The sister-borough was now half-paralyzed; but he hoped, ere long, to see a galvanic shock applied, which would restore the dead moiety to life, and give a worthy colleague to Mr. Ord. (Cheers.)—Mr. Harle proceeded to make an observation or two on free-trade and national education, and concluded by proposing the toast. (Three times three.)

Mr. ORD was received, on rising, with the warmest demonstrations of esteem. He said:—Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and Gentlemen, I beg to return my warmest thanks for the honour you have done me by drinking my health on this occasion, and especially for the manner in which you were pleased to bestow that compliment upon me. I feel that I have no claim whatever to such a distinction beyond that of having had, during a long period—though not quite half a century (laughter)—a seat in parliament, and acted consistently upon those principles which I believe you approve, and in support of those measures and objects growing out of those principles, which appear to me, as I dare say they do to you, most likely to extend, to the utmost possible limits within the lines of the constitution, the great principles of civil and religious liberty. (Applause.) It certainly is with great satisfaction that I can look back to the period when I first entered parliament, and see the progress that those principles have made. When I remember the small minorities in which I frequently voted—the hopeless distance at which many of those objects and measures seemed to be which are now become the law of the land—above all, when I see the tribute which has been paid to their truth and justice by those that have passed their whole lives in opposition to them—I cannot but feel confirmed in the belief that we have been pursuing the true and just cause; and I cannot but believe that whatever clouds may now obscure it, it must finally triumph. (Applause.) Gentlemen, if I wanted another confirmation of these hopes I should see it in the present state of the Tory party — in the language which they are compelled to hold, and in the measures they are compelled to submit to. Nay, I think I see it even in the person whom they are obliged to acknowledge as their leader—a man of whose talents, acquirements, and sagacity, I certainly am not going to speak with disrespect—but a man in whom, I believe, they have no confidence—a man whom, it has been well said, they despise for his faults and hate for his merits—a man who, set up as the protector of monopoly, turns round upon them and tells them that the principles of free-trade are the principles of common sense, and sends to Barnsley my Lord Wharncliffe—no incautious person—no rash youth—no man who uses Tamboff speeches (laughter) which mean anything or nothing—but a sagacious—aged statesman—I believe quite as old as myself—who tells an assembly—(composed of what?—composed of Tory squires and Tory parsons)—that they are not to be hasty in imputing motives—that they ought to be sure of the grounds they are going upon before they make accusations—in short, that they ought not to be too much given to slander and falsehood. (Loud cheers.) The advice is very proper and wise, and singularly appropriate. But it comes from rather a strange quarter. One would really suppose that slander and falsehood never were Tory weapons—were never part of the artillery with which they contrived to batter down their opponents. What does Lord Wharncliffe go on to tell them? Why, that what is paid by all should be spent for the good of all—that they should not put their hands into the pockets of the Dissenter, and take his money for the building of schools and the paying of schoolmasters, without his being "considered"—(I think that was the word)—meaning that the education of the people, being paid for by Dissenters, should not be given exclusively into the hands of the Church. (Applause.) Very proper language, very sensible, and very right; but rather new in that quarter. (Laughter and cheers.) It must have been rather appalling to the party to whom it was delivered. It would have been not a little amusing to have heard the observations and seen the countenances of the departing audience. I think the effect must have been something like that produced upon Sir Wm. Scott, in the beginning of the French revolution, when Mr. Brogden walked into the House of Commons with a cropped head and no powder. (Laughter.) Sir William Scott said he really could not sleep for thinking of Mr. Brogden's head (laughter); and I think Lord Wharncliffe's speech must have been quite as appalling to sundry Tory gentlemen who listened to it, as Mr. Brogden's head to Lord Stowell. (Laughter.) But I am afraid I am trespassing. I have no business to make a speech here. (Cries of "Go, on.") I only came here to pay my respects to your excellent representative, of whom, I am sure, in the language so properly used by your Mayor, you have great reason to be proud. I have been an attentive observer of public men during no very short period, and I can only say that if I were an elector of Gateshead I should be extremely proud of my representative. (Applause.) I sincerely wish that he may long live to do himself and you honour, and to confer, as he has already done, great benefits upon his country. In my capacity of member for the adjoining town, I am sure I cannot better do my duty than by offering him my most cordial coöperation on any occasion on which I can promote the prosperity of Gateshead. I have had great pleasure and satisfaction in offering this testimony of my respect, whatever it may be worth, and I shall be most happy in having any opportunity to repeat it. (Loud and prolonged cheering.)

Mr. JOSEPH COWEN briefly proposed "The Liberal Members for the County of Durham." (Loud cheers.)

Ald. BROCKETT was hailed with enthusiastic cheers, when he rose to propose a toast—a toast, he said, which he was sure would receive the hearty approbation of the company. It was the health of two members of the legislature who had done their duty well—who had zealously supported the principles of Re-

Digitized by Google

form—and who had never been slow to advocate and enforce the constitutional rights of the people. (Applause.) One of them, Lord Howick (loud cheers), had done the people of Gateshead the honour of attending on the present occasion, to add his valuable testimony to the merits of their representative, Mr. Hutt. And who that remembered the bitter hostility to which the enfranchisement of Gateshead was exposed in parliament, during the passing of the Reform Bill, would hesitate, for a single instant, in according the heartiest possible welcome to the son of one of Gateshead's noblest defenders on that occasion—to the son of the venerable Earl Grey? (Prolonged applause.) Who could forget the stand which that great statesman, and his noble son-in-law, Lord Durham (cheers), made for the borough of Gateshead, against the assaults and insults of Toryism—and the victory, also, with which their championship was crowned? He was delighted, therefore, beyond expression, in seeing Lord Howick on the present occasion; and he hoped that he (Mr. B.) would live to see the day—and the day would assuredly arrive—when their noble visitor would fill the post which his excellent father had so much adorned (loud cheers), and earn, like his sire, the admiration and gratitude of his countrymen. (Renewed cheers.) He said this without one particle of flattery—(an ingredient which he had always detested)—because he was never more convinced in his life of anything, than of the certainty that, if life and health permitted, the noble lord would have the opportunity of fighting, hand in hand with his fellow-countrymen, for those great principles by whose advocacy his family had been so long and gloriously distinguished. (Loud cheers.) It had always been his (Mr. B.'s) wish, to see Sunderland and Gateshead united. Their interests were the same. No jealousy, no conflict of opinion, political or commercial, should ever exist between them. On the contrary, there was the strongest possible reason for their union; and he was happy to think that the two boroughs were never more united than at present; and he was quite sure, moreover, that the "Members for Sunderland," whose health he now proposed, would contribute everything in their power towards perpetuating so truly important and valuable a fellowship. (Prolonged applause, and three times three.)

Lord Howick rose to reply. The applause was long-protracted and deafening. When at length silence was restored, the noble lord spoke as follows:—Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen, on the part of my colleague (Mr. Barclay) and myself, I beg to thank you most most sincerely for the honour you have just done us. I assure you I feel deeply the complimentary terms with which reference was made to me by the worthy alderman. At the same time I am perfectly aware that that toast is given, and properly given, not with the view of any personal compliment to us, but to mark your approbation of those principles of public conduct which both Mr. Barclay and myself have endeavoured steadily to adhere to. The worthy alderman told you that Gateshead and Sunderland have no opposition of interests, but, on the contrary, are united together by the closest connections of a common interest. This is indeed true. They are both towns dependent for their prosperity upon the success of the same great branch of the trade of the country—both deeply interested in the success, not only of that particular trade, but of trade generally, and I will say of British industry generally. (Applause.) Since I have had the honour of representing Sunderland, it has ever been my most anxious wish to do whatever lay in my power to promote the prosperity of that town, by following those views to which Mr. Hutt has so well adverted this evening, and endeavouring to relieve British commerce from impolitic restrictions, and from the shackles by which it has hitherto been oppressed. (Cheers.) Entertaining strongly these feelings, it affords me great satisfaction to meet such a company as I see around me upon this occasion. We are assembled here to give a well-merited tribute of our respect to my honourable friend Mr. Hutt. No man could better deserve such a compliment; for having had the pleasure of sitting many years in parliament with him, I can safely say that I firmly believe there is not to be found within the walls of the House of Commons a representative of the people more honest, more independent, and more useful than Mr. Hutt. (Applause.) Mr. Hutt has many claims to the gratitude of his constituents, but there are two particular classes of subjects, at this moment of great interest and great importance to the kingdom, upon both of which Mr. Hutt has taken a most active and useful part. He has ever been ready to stand forward in advocating that policy of commercial freedom to which I have already adverted. He has been equally active in promoting an enlightened policy upon another subject—(certainly of less, but still of great importance)—I mean colonization upon an extended and enlightened principle. (Applause.) We all know what service he has rendered to that cause. And I cannot help remarking that I think these are two subjects of great importance at this moment, because there are strong symptoms that men's minds are at length beginning to be roused to the absolute necessity of looking more than we have hitherto been in the habit of looking to the means of improving the condition of the great body of the people of this country. (Hear, hear.) The state of the great body of our population, which in my opinion has for many years been calculated to create no slight anxiety and alarm, is now, I think, becoming such that even the most careless observer cannot fail to feel the pressing and deep necessity of taking some measures for the amelioration of their lot. Gentlemen, I say this is an opinion which I have long entertained. When I look around me—when I see in the greater part of the south of England the misery and destitution—not occasionally, not only at times, but the habitual condition—of a great part of the agricultural population; again, when I turn my eyes to the manufacturing districts, and there see that they have but lately experienced a prolonged period of the deepest, most wide-spread, and most heart-rending distress; I cannot but feel that these permanent states of depression of the agricultural population—these periodical visitations of great distress also in the manufacturing districts—may be expected to recur, unless some vigorous and decisive attempt is made to place the industry of the country upon a sure and more stable foundation. (Cheers.) In my opinion, this can be done by one means, and one means only; and that is, by liberating commerce from the shackles which oppress it. (Renewed cheering.) Mr. Hutt this evening expressed an opinion that I have long entertained—that what are called protective duties are grossly misnamed when they are so termed. Instead of protecting duties I should term them duties imposed for the purpose of enabling one set of men to take, without any right, a part of the produce of the labouring portion of the country. (Applause.) For, let me ask, how is it that these duties operate? Look around you, and see what is their practical operation. I will take almost at random the first instance that occurs. If it were not for these protecting duties, it is probable that the same quantity of the produce of British labour—the same quantity of cloths or hardware—now exchanged for 80 tons of Jamaica or Ceylon coffee, would (if we were allowed so to exchange) obtain in return at least 100 tons of coffee produced in Brazil or Hayti. (Hear, hear.) What is the effect of prohibiting that exchange, but to tax the labourers and capitalists of Manchester and Birmingham—to deprive them of 20 or 30 per cent. of the produce of their labour, and to give it to others? And when this system is applied, not only to one but to many various branches of trade—when it is applied throughout—when you find everywhere the same system in operation, by which the labourer, the producer of goods in this country, is prevented from freely exchanging the produce of his labour with those who would give him most for it in return—what is the effect upon the whole but to diminish the productiveness of labour, and, by diminishing its productiveness and value, of course to diminish its remuneration? (Loud cheers.) I firmly believe that if we would avoid some great calamity this system must be speedily changed; and as it must be changed in all other matters, so especially in that matter of the corn laws to which Mr. Hutt has adverted; because while every other description of protecting duty is most mischievous, I think there is this special and peculiar mischief arising out of the corn laws—that of laws of which the intention as well as the effect is to limit the supply of food to the people, the necessary effect is, not merely to diminish the productiveness of labour, but to diminish the proportion of the produce of his labour which the labourer himself receives. (Cheers.) We all know that in newly-settled countries—in countries where there is a great extent of land in proportion to the population—wages are high as well as profits. And I ventured, in the House of Commons, to ask the advocates of the corn laws how they could account for this contrast between the rate of wages in countries so circumstanced, and the rate of wages in this country, except by admitting that it is the natural monopoly of land which renders it necessary for those who cultivate the land to give, in the shape of rent, a large proportion of the produce

Digitized by Google

of their labour to others. I believe that under a proper system rents would not, in fact, fall, but I believe they would cease to press in the cruel way they now do upon the labouring classes. (Hear, hear.) I believe that we should find in a very short time that a different state of things would arise in this country, and that all classes would share the benefit of the change. Gentlemen, I feel that I am getting into subjects not well calculated for a festive meeting. (Cries of "Go on," and cheers.) But I cannot help adverting to the fact that while I feel the great importance of free trade, I also, as I said before, feel that it is most important that measures should be taken to extend colonization. Mr. Hutt, not only as a member of parliament, but in his individual capacity, has greatly promoted this great object. Not that I am one of those who conceive the population of this country to be too great. Far from it. I believe that if we would but strike off the shackles which now weigh down the arm of industry (cheers)—those artificial and impolitic regulations which prevent British industry from being as effective and productive as it ought to be—this country could maintain, not only its present numbers, but the increasing numbers which in the course of nature a few years must add. I have no fears of what is called over-population. But at the same time I do say that in extended colonization we have a most valuable resource to meet those difficulties which are to be apprehended from any change of system, even when you give up a system that is radically bad. I believe that colonization, carried on upon a large scale, and upon an enlightened system, would afford means of relief to those local congestions of population which long perseverance in a bad and artificial system has produced. More than that, I think it would be most valuable as affording a field for the enterprise and activity of youth, and of those energetic spirits which in other times have sought occupation in the toils and dangers of war. Instead of being engaged in those dreadful scenes—in maintaining the interests of their country in battle, and in carrying destruction and bloodshed throughout the world—I should wish to see that energetic spirit employed in combating with the wilderness, in extending the dominion of civilization over the vast regions of the earth which are yet strangers to cultivation and improvement, and in bearing the name, the language, the religion, and the civilization of this great country to the farthest ends of the earth. (Cheers.) I have mentioned these two subjects more particularly, because they seem to me to be those to which, in his public career in the House of Commons, Mr. Hutt has given most attention and most useful service. They are, I firmly believe, in the present situation of this country, subjects which yield in importance to none. Perhaps I have entered too largely into them. (No, no.) But if I have, it has been from a feeling that meetings of this kind are intended, not merely for the purpose of social enjoyment, but that they have another, and a higher and a nobler object. (Applause.) They are intended to afford us an opportunity of mutually expressing to each other our opinions upon great questions of public concernment, and of learning what are the views which we consider best for the public interest, so that we may be prepared, when the time comes, for more serious action, and, by mutual concert and coöperation, to promote the carrying practically into effect of that plan which we believe to be the best. (Applause.) Having made these observations, I will not detain you any further; but before I sit down I will venture to propose a toast. It is entered, I see, upon the list which lies before me, and may have been confided to other hands. I hope to be pardoned, however, if I appropriate the toast to myself, and deprive some other gentleman of the pleasure of proposing the health of our worthy Chairman (loud cheers), who has acquitted himself of the duties which he has this night undertaken, I am sure, so greatly to the satisfaction of the numerous and respectable company I see around me. I give you, gentlemen, the health of "The Chairman." (Three times three, and one cheer more.)

The Mayor observed:—To say that I am not proud of the honour conferred upon me by Lord Howick, and by this large and honourable company, would be to belie my feelings. (Applause.) There is not a man in England who might not feel proud to preside over such a company, and to be told that his conduct had given satisfaction. If Prince Albert himself were here, with the Queen on one side of him and Louis Philippe on the other (laughter), he could not feel prouder than I do at this moment. I thank you most sincerely, my Lord Howick and gentlemen, for your great kindness, and drink all your very good healths. (Applause.)

Mr. Ralph Carr proposed the health of Mr. Savile Ogle, M.P., who, although a young member, yielded to none in his zeal for the good cause which they had met to celebrate. (Loud applause, and three times three.)

Mr. Savile Ogle rose amidst renewed cheering, and returned thanks. He expressed his concurrence in the views of Mr. Hutt and Lord Howick, and hoped the day would soon come in which all odious monopolies were abolished. (Loud cheers.) It was with great satisfaction that he took part in the present agreeable meeting. He entertained the highest respect for the gentleman in whose honour it was held, and had much pleasure in contributing his meed of praise to a representative so worthy of his constituents. (Applause.)

The Vice-Chairman proposed, in graceful and complimentary terms, the toast of "The Countess of Strathmore." (Three times three, and one cheer more.)

Mr. Hutt rose to acknowledge the toast, knowing that the object of it was the generous purpose of transferring some portion of the great gratification which he had received in that brilliant scene, to the quiet circle of his own home. He felt deeply grateful for it. Perhaps they were too much disposed to forget the political influence which the ladies enjoyed through the medium of the other sex. He attributed the proud position which Gateshead had taken in the march of freedom very much to the generous and patriotic sentiments which were ever alive in the breasts of the ladies of that town. (Cheers.) He was aware of numerous instances of such devotion to the good cause which involved the welfare of their country, and to them he knew the grateful acknowledgments of all present would be rendered, if he were at liberty to name them. He would not do so; but only because he was unwilling, by anything like a public notice, to impair the enamel of a lady's name. (Loud applause.)

Mr. W. Armstrong rose and said, his friend Alderman Potter, who had been obliged to leave the meeting, and who should have proposed the next toast on the list, had confided it to his keeping. It was the health of three gentlemen well-known to them all, and equally well respected. He referred to the honourable members for Tynemouth, South Shields, and Durham. (Three times three.)

Mr. Mitcalfe was the first to rise, and was received with loud cheers. He had no personal claims, he said, to precedence; but as Tynemouth stood first in the toast, he had risen before his friend Mr. Granger. (Mr. Granger: No, no! *for* him—not *before* him.) He could assure his learned friend he had no intention to speak for more than himself (laughter)—except for his absent friend Mr. Wawn. He would certainly leave Mr. Granger to perform the task for which he was so well qualified—namely, to answer for himself. (Laughter.) Mr. Mitcalfe proceeded briefly to state his concurrence with Lord Howick and Mr. Hutt in their attachment to civil and religious liberty and free trade, and was heard with much attention and approbation.

Mr. Granger rose amidst loud cheers, and said, his position had been much misrepresented by the honourable member for Tynemouth. The fact was, he was not there to answer for himself, but was merely present to play the silent part of junior counsel. (Laughter.) It was his duty to sit still, and hear his friend Mr. Mitcalfe descant largely and eloquently on his (Mr. Granger's) merits, and a little on his own. (Laughter.) But instead of that, the honourable gentleman was one of those orators who would say a deal for himself and nothing for his friend. (Roars of laughter.) Since, therefore, he (Mr. Granger) had no alternative left him but to speak for himself, he would assure the company it had given him great pleasure to concur with them in the present compliment to their worthy representative. He was glad to see so cordial a sympathy between Mr. Hutt and his constituents. His learned friend Mr. Harle, in proposing the health of Mr. Ord, had spoken of the borough as "Young Gateshead." (Laughter.) The epithet, politically speaking, might be appropriate; but he hoped, nevertheless, that Gateshead had so far arrived at years of discretion, that she would have more good sense than to part from her excellent member. (Loud cheers.) He would advise the electors, at any rate, to hold him fast until they could get a better; and in that case Mr. Hutt would live and die in their service. (Applause.)

Ald. Davis proposed "The Mayor and Corporation of Newcastle." (Three times three.)

Digitized by Google

Sir JOHN FIFE returned thanks for himself and colleagues, and said, no borough ever had a more able member than Mr. Hutt, or one who was more zealous in any cause in which, from principle or feeling, he felt called upon to embark his energies. (Applause.)

Ald. WILSON proposed the health of the Vice-President, George Hawks, Esq. (Loud cheers.) The worthy Alderman observed, that his friend Mr. Hawks, although still a young man, stood at the head of the iron trade in the district, and bore the character of an excellent manufacturer. He had contributed very materially, in that capacity, to many of the great improvements of the present day, and his health ought surely to be drunk in Gateshead with grateful enthusiasm. (Three times three, and one cheer more.)

The VICE PRESIDENT, amid loud cheers, rose to return thanks, and said he had readily consented to take the vice-chair, believing Mr. Hutt to be well-entitled to the compliment of a public dinner. (Applause.) The honourable member paid particular attention to matters of trade and commerce, and had been eulogized, on both sides of the House of Commons, for the excellence of his measures. Such a member was well-fitted to represent a trading community, and Gateshead was fortunate in having secured his services. (Applause.) The present were critical times for Great Britain. Europe had long been at peace; and there was now a keen struggle for preëminence, not in the field, but in trade and manufactures. The natural position and advantages of England—her mineral products—and the fierce energy of the Anglo-Saxon race—would enable her, with fairplay, to maintain her place in the van. (Applause.) Much depended, however, on the wisdom and justice of the legislature. One bad move might be the ruin of thousands. Selfish legislation should be avoided, and commerce receive a fair consideration from parliament. To tamper with trade was to tamper with the sustenance and the life of the people. John Bull depended on his industrial pursuits for a supply of those articles which, although not very sentimental, were very necessary—for he could not very well do without smallclothes, &c. (Laughter.) He would not, however, pursue any further a subject which had been so well treated by preceding speakers, but conclude by proposing a toast, namely, "The Lord of the Manor." (Loud cheers.) Mr. Ellison, he believed, first entered on public life in Gateshead as colonel of a regiment of volunteers—as valiant a corps as ever said they wished to meet an enemy in the field. (Laughter.) Since that time he had benefited the borough and its institutions by many grants of land and money. (Applause.) He was much and deservedly respected, and all present would drink with great pleasure "The Lord of the Manor." (Loud and protracted cheering.)

The MAYOR said, he honoured Mr. Ellison for the part which he had taken to promote the recreation of the working classes, and cordially joined in drinking the toast proposed by the Vice-President. (Applause.)

Mr. HUTT rose and said, he wished to propose a toast, and to introduce it with one or two prefatory observations. He would not, at that late hour of the evening, detain the company by a speech; but he did not think that a body of liberal Englishmen, assembled for a political purpose, could properly separate without remembering the sister-country. (Loud cheers.) Those who had perused her history might demur to the appellation, for certainly Ireland had been uniformly treated by England less as a sister than a conquered country. (Renewed cheers.) The honourable member proceeded to illustrate his assertion by facts, and concluded with the toast of "Justice to Ireland," which was drunk with loud applause.

Mr. GARBUTT now proposed the last toast on the list, "The Port and Trade of the Tyne;" which was drunk with three times three, and the pleasant evening came to a close.

Mr. Topliff, of whom we need *now* say nothing in the way of recommendation, has announced his intention to revisit the North of England in the present month. On Wednesday, Oct. 23, as advertised in another column, he will be in Gateshead, and introduce to our neighbours his new musical entertainment, *Touch and Go*, written expressly for the present occasion. We suspect, however, that although "novelty" is proverbially "charming," the most popular portion of the evening's amusement will be the "Local Melange," including "Spottee," "As me and maw Marrow," "The Weshin' Day," "Up the Raw," and other old north-country favourites.

COMPLIMENT TO COUNCILLOR REVELY.—On Friday evening, October 18, by invitation, Mr. Thomas Revely, Town Councillor and Surveyor of Highways, met a party of his friends and fellow-townsmen, at Miss Murray's, the Half Moon inn, Gateshead; to receive at their hands an elegant gold-headed cane, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to Mr. Thomas Revely, in grateful acknowledgment of his care over the roads and rights of his fellow townsmen.—Gateshead, October, 1844."—The cane was presented, on behalf of the subscribers, by William Lockey Harle, Esq., with a few appropriate observations; and the compliment was suitably acknowledged by the public-spirited Councillor. Few men are more deserving of the gratitude of their fellow-townsmen than Mr. Revely. He is indefatigable in his care over the roads and paths of the borough of Gateshead, and unflinching in his advocacy of public rights. We have therefore much pleasure in noticing the present tribute to his merits.

DETACHED PARTS OF COUNTIES.—The act "to annex detached parts of counties to the counties in which they are situated," which was passed in the last session of parliament, comes into operation on the 20th Oct. After that day, every part of any county which is detached from the main body of any such county, will be considered, *for all purposes*, as forming part of that county of which it is considered a part for election-purposes. Under the provisions of this act, North Durham—which consists of Bedlingtonshire, Islandshire, and Norhamshire, detached parts of the county of Durham—is annexed to the county of Northumberland; and persons residing in any of the three *shires* of North Durham may be summoned for small debts to the Sheriff's Court at Alnwick.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE WEST WARD OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—Most respectfully I beg to acknowledge the confidence you have hitherto placed in me, as one of your Representatives in the Council, and to state, that should it be your pleasure again to elect me at the forthcoming Election, on the 1st of November next, no exertion on my part shall be wanting, which may tend to forward the various improvements now in progress in your Ward, or the interests and importance of the Borough generally.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient Servant,
14, West-street, Oct. 17, 1844. THOMAS CUMMINS.

GATESHEAD IRON WORKS.

WANTED, some WAGGON BUILDERS.—Encouragement will be given to good workmen. Apply to Mr. TINDALE, at the Works.

Gateshead, Oct. 17, 1844.

KENDAL AND WINDERMERE RAILWAY.

The poet WORDSWORTH, whose sonnet in defence of railways we lately published, has written another, of an opposite complexion, now that a line is likely to "come home" to him. He writes thus (in the *Morning Post*):—

Is there no nook of English ground secure
From rash assault? Schemes of retirement sown
In youth, and mid the busy world kept pure
As when their earliest flowers of hope were blown,
Must perish:—how can they this blight endure?
And must he too his own delights disown
Who scorns a false utilitarian lure
Mid his paternal fields at random thrown?
Baffle the threat, bright scene from Orrest-Head,
Given to the pausing traveller's rapturous glance!
Plead for thy peace, thou beautiful romance
Of nature; and if human hearts be dead,
Speak, passing winds! ye torrents, with your strong
And constant voice, protest against the wrong!

Rydal Mount, Oct. 12. WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

Let not the above be considered as merely a poetical effusion. The degree and kind of attachment which many of the yeomanry feel to their small inheritances can scarcely be overrated. Near the house of one of them stands a magnificent tree, which a neighbour of the owner advised him to fell for profit's sake. "Fell it?" exclaimed the yeoman, "I had rather fall on my knees and worship it." It happens, I believe, that the intended railway will pass through this little property, and I hope that an apology for the answer will not be thought necessary by any one who enters into the strength of the feeling. W. W.

Digitized by Google

proposed by Mr.
ıg, can be effected.
omprehending our
ıedy this omission,
to the station, as
or to remove the
atter will probably
ıoval will be com-
ll be of use; and
to cover one error
-If error, indeed, it
Gateshead was at
a communication

F OF THE
E SUFFERERS
:
ł, held this day,
ns for the Relatives

ɐ Chair,)
o the Secretary (of
) having been laid
express their hope
parties from sub-
ion whatever with
nally formed with-
the Collection of
r for the Benefit of
) collect sufficient
's and Aged Rela-

into the Northum-
credit of the Rev.

d to MONDAY, the

:LL, Chairman.

: THE RELIEF
RS AT HASWELL

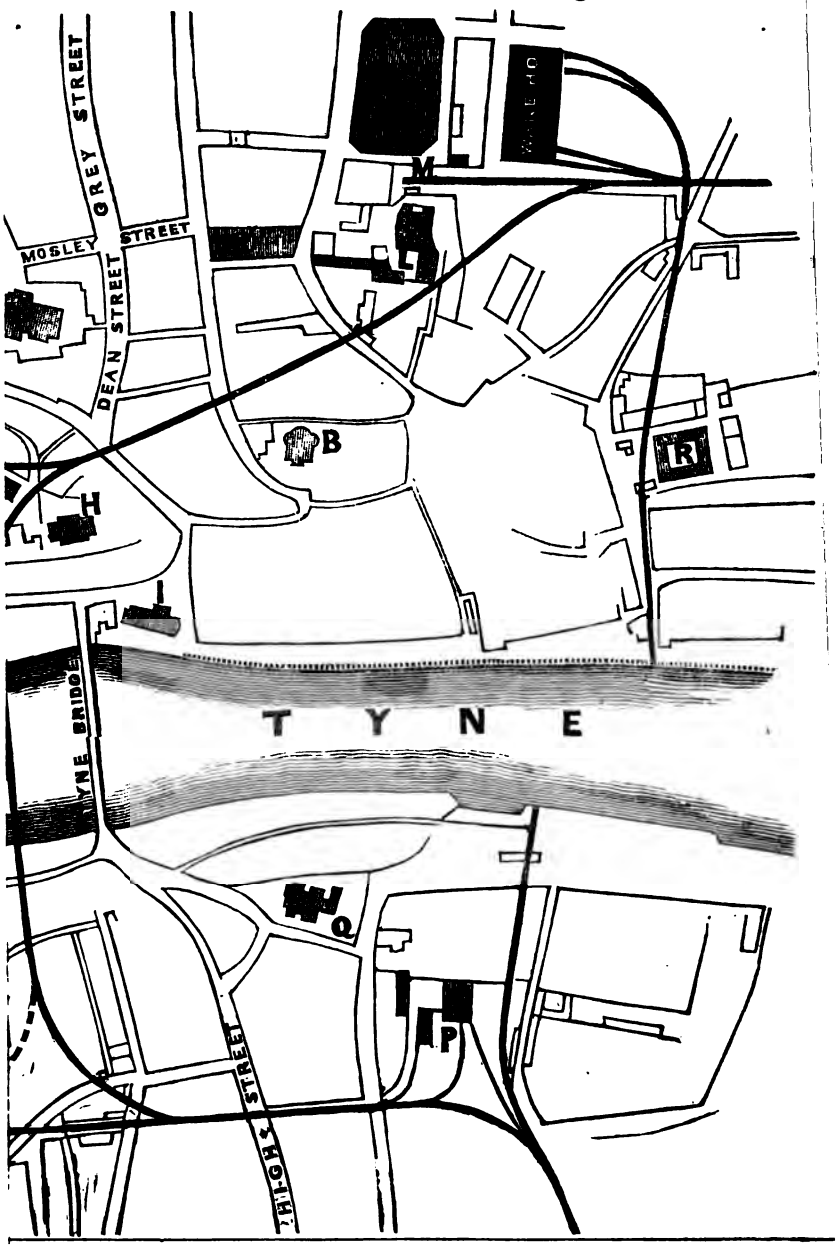
...	£50	0	0
ll.	10	0	0
h.	10	0	0
..	10	0	0
..	2	0	0
..	1	0	0
..	1	0	0
..	1	0	0
B.			
..	2	10	0
..	5	0	0
on	5	5	0
..	5	0	0
..	1	1	0
..	5	10	0
..	1	1	0
H.			
..	9	16	0
..	1	0	0
..	1	0	0
..	8	3	9
..	1	3	0
..	1	0	0
..	1	5	9
..	2	2	0
..	7	3	8
..	0	10	0
..	1	0	0
..	1	0	0
..	0	10	0
ɔ.	1	0	0
..	1	0	0
..	25	0	0
..	3	3	0

Digitized by Google

Sir John Fife r
and said, no boroug
Hutt, or one who
from principle or f
energies. (Applaus
Ald. Wilson pr
George Hawks, Esq
observed, that his
man, stood at the h
bore the character o
tributed very mater
improvements of th
to be drunk in Gate
times three, and on
The Vice Pres
thanks, and said h
chair, believing Mr
of a public dinner
paid particular att
and had been eu
Commons, for the
was well-fitted to re
head was fortunate
The present were c
long been at peace
preëminence, not i
The natural positic
products—and the
would enable her, w
(Applause.) Much
of the legislature.
thousands. Selfi
commerce receive
tamper with trade
life of the people.
pursuits for a supp
sentimental, were
do without small
however, pursue a
treated by preced
toast, namely, "T
Mr. Ellison, he be
head as colonel of
as ever said they
(Laughter.) Sinc
and its institutio
(Applause.) He w
present would dri
Manor." (Loud a
The Mayor sa
which he had take
classes, and cordia
the Vice-President
Mr. Hutt rose a
introduce it with o
not, at that late ho
speech; but he di
men, assembled fo
without remembe
Those who had pe
lation, for certain
England less as a
cheers.) The hon
assertion by facts,
Ireland," which wa
Mr. Garbutt n
Port and Trade c
times three, and th

Mr. Topliff, (
the way of recomm
visit the Northb
Wednesday, Oct. 2
in Gateshead, and
entertainment, *To*
occasion. We s
proverbially "cha
evening's amusem

ead Junction Railway.



derneath the Newcastle and North
ayside, for the conveyance of goods
to erect warehouses for goods on
t. This branch is to be worked by
id in a *tunnel* the entire way. The
the river, indicates a railway for

laid into the warehouses from the
ds Railway—by which they will be
tle and Carlisle and Newcastle and
with the new line to Edinburgh,
Shields line.)
ington and the Newcastle and North
ithin about eight feet of the same
ill, for all practical purposes, be as
lination whatever. The communi-
and Carlisle Railway will be equally

that every street will be crossed by
e being in any instance disturbed.
rching will be about 24 feet high.

The Side will be crossed at a height of 73 feet; Pilgrim-stre
22 feet; Manor-chare, 45 feet; and Westgate-street, about
feet.

The bridge across the Tyne will be about 110 feet abo
high-water line; and it is proposed to make it available
foot-passengers, as well as for railway-purposes.

An inspection of the engraving will show that, as alres
stated, this project will connect the Newcastle and Darling
Railway with the Newcastle and Carlisle and Newcastle a
North Shields lines, and with the line to Edinburgh. It
also connect the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway with the Ne
castle and North Shields, and the line to Edinburgh.

By the goods-branch, merchandise may be carried from
Quayside to every railway leading out of Newcastle, No
South, East, and West.

The plan now described would accomplish the great objec
passing through (or rather over) Newcastle, and link
together the railways of the district; bestow a high-level bri
upon the public at the point where such an accommodatio
most required; disturb the surface of none of our thorou
fares; and carry railway-travellers through no dismal tunne

Digitized by Google

NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD RAILWAY.

The interest taken by the public in the railway-projects for passing through Newcastle, increases as the time draws nigh for giving notice of intention to apply to Parliament.

The Committee of the Newcastle Town Council—appointed, a short time ago, to inquire and report—invited Messrs. Stephenson, Brunel, and Nicholson, the other day, to meet them with their plans and sections, and go into the whole question. Communications, however, were received from Messrs. Stephenson and Brunel, stating that they were not then prepared with their plans; and Mr. Nicholson was the only one who attended the meeting of the Committee. The project of that gentleman is of a highly-important character, and may have considerable weight in the ultimate solution of the problem now under consideration. We have been induced, therefore, to procure an engraved representation of the main features of his plan, and to lay it before the public.

The meeting of the Committee was attended by many leading members of the Council—who appeared much pleased with the line laid down.

The leading features of the "Newcastle and Gateshead Junction Railway," as we may call the proposed communication, are as follows:—

1. It connects the Newcastle and Darlington, the Newcastle and Carlisle, the Newcastle and North Shields, and the Northumberland (or Newcastle and Berwick) Railways with each other, by a *line of railway almost perfectly level;* so that passengers and carriages can be taken from any one line to any other line, without change.

2. It crosses the various streets without interfering with the surface of any one of them on the entire line. Half-Moon-lane, in common with other thoroughfares, is crossed by an arch—a great recommendation of the project, unquestionably, to the inhabitants of this borough.

3. There is no tunnel.

4. The site for a station is selected in a highly-convenient and central part of the town, where there is ample room for the requirements of all parties.

5. The property interfered with by the railway is generally of an inferior description.

6. A bridge for foot-passengers is obtained between Newcastle and Gateshead upon a high-level, and in the most convenient situation.

The proposed tunnel for goods, from Pandon Dean to the Quayside, with a railway along the face of the quay, is also an important feature in the project. By this tunnel goods may be conveyed between the ships lying in the river and any towns with which the railways leading out of Newcastle communicate, without the intervention of cartage; so that a great annual saving of expense in cartage will be effected. We are informed, likewise, that it is probable a steam-communication will be established between Newcastle and foreign ports, where at present there is none.

From the best information that we can obtain, we believe that the cost of the whole undertaking will be about £200,000.

A project was mentioned for crossing the Tyne a little to the east of the Skinner Burn, and tunneling thence directly north to Newcastle moor. This, however, would require a considerable fall across the Tyne, and a tunnel of a mile in length, with a steep ascent northwards. The scheme would not connect the various railways, and the bridge would be of no use for foot-passengers between Newcastle and Gateshead. For these and other reasons, the plan seemed to be considered objectionable.

Another crossing, at the east end of Newcastle quay, was also incidentally alluded to; but as this would interfere with the navigation of the river, and form no communication with the Carlisle Railway, it was received, apparently, with little favour.

On the whole, we do not think that a more complete and convenient communication than that proposed by Mr. Nicholson, and represented in our engraving, can be effected. It has, however, the disadvantage of not comprehending our new railway-station in Gateshead. To remedy this omission, it is proposed either to make a curve into the station, as shown by the dotted line on the woodcut, or to remove the station further east to the new line. The latter will probably be the remedy adopted. The cost of removal will be comparatively trifling, as all the materials will be of use; and Mr. Hudson, we are sure, will not attempt to cover one error by the adoption of another and a greater—if error, indeed, it can be considered, seeing that a station in Gateshead was at all events wanted until the completion of a communication with Newcastle.—Oct. 19.

MEETING FOR THE RELIEF OF THE WIDOWS AND CHILDREN OF THE SUFFERERS AT HASWELL COLLIERY.

At an ADJOURNED MEETING, held this day, for the purpose of soliciting Subscriptions for the Relatives of the Sufferers at Haswell Colliery,

(The Rev. H. G. LIDDELL in the Chair,)

A Letter from the Marquis of Londonderry to the Secretary (of which a copy appeared in the newspapers) having been laid before the Meeting, the Committee have to express their hope that the publicity given to it may not deter parties from subscribing. The Committee have no connection whatever with the Owners of Haswell Colliery, being originally formed without their knowledge, and have undertaken the Collection of Subscriptions, not to relieve them, but solely for the Benefit of the Sufferers. They trust to be enabled to collect sufficient money to purchase Annuities for the Widows and Aged Relatives.

Resolved,—That the Subscriptions be paid into the Northumberland and Durham District Bank, to the credit of the Rev. H. G. Liddell, Chairman of the Committee.

Resolved,—That this Meeting be adjourned to Monday, the 4th of November, at 12 o'clock.

H. G. LIDDELL, Chairman.

Castle Eden Inn, October 21, 1844.

ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE RELIEF OF THE RELATIVES OF THE SUFFERERS AT HASWELL COLLIERY.

His Grace the Duke of Northumberland..	£50	0	0
W. Standish Standish, Esq., Cocken Hall .	10	0	0
R. E. Duncombe Shafto, Esq., Whitworth .	10	0	0
Messrs. Greene, merchants, Gateshead ..	10	0	0
The Rev. J. H. Brown, Dalton-le-Dale ..	2	0	0
Mrs. Brown, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. Thomas Dakers, Whitwell Colliery ..	1	0	0
Mr. Thomas Elliot, Gilesgate, Durham ..	1	0	0
Small sums at Whitwell, per Mr. M. B. Robson	2	10	0
C. Bramwell, Esq., Sunderland	5	0	0
————, for Messrs. H. & Sons, London	5	5	0
Hon. Miss Liddell, Ravensworth Castle ..	5	0	0
Mr. Billsborrow, Easington	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Renner, ditto	5	10	0
Mrs. Beecroft, ditto	1	1	0
Small sums at Easington, per Rev. H. Liddell	9	16	0
Mr. Mitchelson, South Hetton	1	0	0
Mr. Brydon, ditto	1	0	0
Pitmen of South Hetton Colliery	8	3	9
Small sums at Hawthorne	1	3	0
Misses Edger, Shotton	1	0	0
Small sums, ditto	1	5	9
Mr. Brown, Shotton Colliery	2	2	0
Pitmen, at ditto	7	3	8
Mr. Taylor, ditto	0	10	0
Mr. Belk, Hartlepool	1	0	0
Mr. S. Robinson, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. Roberson, Brighton	0	10	0
Rev. J. H. Brown, Middleton-in-Teesdale .	1	0	0
Mrs. Brown, ditto	1	0	0
H. Blanshard, Esq., London	25	0	0
The Rev. E. Elder, Durham	3	3	0

Digitized by Google

Thomas Wilkinson, Esq., ditto	10	0	0
George Wilkinson, Esq., ditto	5	0	0
Anthony Wilkinson, Esq., ditto	5	0	0
Rev. E. C. Wheeler, ditto	2	0	0
John Griffith, Esq., ditto	10	0	0
Dr. Fenwick, ditto	10	0	0
J. W. Hays, Esq., ditto	2	2	0
Mrs. Greenwell, Bailey, ditto	2	0	0
Rev. Thomas Ebdon, ditto	5	0	0
Collected at St. Giles's church, ditto	13	6	1
Mr. T. Brown, Gilesgate, ditto	1	0	0
W. Henderson, Esq., ditto	2	0	0
Right Hon. Lord Viscount Barrington	25	0	0
Hon. Mrs. Russell Barrington	10	0	0
J. Brooksbank, Esq., Durham	2	0	0
The Mercers' Company, ditto	3	0	0
The Rev. W. Fletcher, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. J. B. Chapman, ditto	1	0	0
Edward Shipperdson, Esq., ditto	20	0	0
Matthew Woodifield, Esq., ditto	5	5	0
Mr. T. Caldcleugh, ditto	2	2	0
Rev. J. Stevenson, ditto	1	1	0
Rev. I. Todd, Shincliffe	1	0	0
W. Burrell, Esq., Broom Park	1	0	0
E. C. Jepson, Esq., Durham	1	1	0
Mr. J. Cawthorn, ditto	1	0	0
Col. Mills, Willington	2	0	0
H. Story, Esq., Norton	1	1	0
W. Scurfield Grey, Esq., ditto	1	1	0
Framwellgate Moor Pitmen	3	0	0
Collected at Chester-le-Street church	14	10	8½
Messrs. H. & J. F. Taylor, Coal Exchange, London	21	0	0
Wm. Mitcalfe, Esq., do.	10	10	0
Messrs. Bentley, Harris & Co., do.	10	10	0
George Marshall, Esq., do.	5	5	0
Messrs. Miller & Potter, do.	5	5	0
Messrs. Croudace & Meeson, do.	5	5	0
Messrs. Lambert, Ridley, & Co., do.	5	5	0
J. W. Morrison, Esq., do.	5	5	0
Messrs. Carr, Lamb, & Co., do.	5	5	0
Messrs. Milnes & Robinson, do.	5	5	0
C. R. Fenwick, Esq., do.	5	5	0
A. Harris, Esq., do.	5	5	0
Messrs. W. Curry & Son, do.	5	5	0
Messrs. Smith & Sharp, do.	5	5	0
Messrs. Davey & Pegg, do.	5	5	0
Edward Lucas, Esq., do.	5	5	0
Messrs. Thomas & W. Druce, do.	5	5	0
Messrs. Jones, Sells, & Co., do.	5	5	0
Messrs. Charrington & Co., do.	5	5	0
Messrs. E. Wood & Co., do.	5	5	0
Messrs. Pocock & Sons, do.	5	5	0
N. Temperley, Esq., do.	5	5	0
Messrs. Burnand & Welch, do.	5	5	0
Messrs. Daglish & Taylor, do.	5	5	0
R. W. Barchard, Esq., do.	2	2	0
Messrs. J. Horne & Son, do.	2	2	0
Messrs. Wright, Loyd, & Co., do.	2	2	0
Messrs. Sergeant & Co., do.	2	2	0
Messrs. Ward & Scarborough, do.	2	2	0
Messrs. F. & T. Morris, do.	2	2	0
Messrs. Pugh & Son, do.	2	2	0
Mr. George Young, do.	2	2	0
Mr. H. P. Davis, do.	1	1	0
Messrs. Gammon & Son, do.	1	1	0
Messrs. Coles, Child, & Co., do.	1	1	0
Messrs. Elemore & Co., London	1	1	0
Messrs. W. & J. Dalton, do.	1	1	0
Messrs. T. & E. Jackson, do.	1	1	0
Mr. C. F. Thompson, do.	1	1	0
Messrs. Randell & Co.	1	1	0
Mr. E. Jones, do.	1	1	0
Mr. J. Perkins, do.	1	1	0
Mr. J. Pope, do.	1	1	0
Mr. R. Pope, do.	1	1	0
Mr. E. M. Daldy, do.	1	1	0
Messrs. Rayment & Son, do.	1	1	0
Mr. J. Gaywood, do.	1	1	0
Mr. T. Adarus, do.	1	1	0
Messrs. Smythe & Co., do.	1	1	0
Mr. H. Pegg, do.	1	1	0
Mr. W. R. Wood, do.	1	1	0
Messrs. Jordison & Brown, do.	1	1	0
Messrs. Cundell & Cockerill, do.	1	1	0
Mr. C. Hall, do.	1	1	0
Mr. C. Jordison, do.	1	0	0
Messrs. Capper & Armstrong, do.	1	0	0
Messrs. Irving & Brown, do.	2	2	0
Mr. Croudace, Pelton	1	0	0
Mr. T. J. Taylor, Earsdon	5	5	0
Professor Faraday	5	0	0
Professor Lyall	5	0	0
T. C. Granger, Esq., M.P.	5	0	0
R. W. Jackson, Esq., Greatham Hall	5	0	0
J. Stephenson, Esq., Derby	5	0	0
N. Grey, Esq., Crimdon House	1	0	0
Collected at Hart, by the Rev. W. E. Harrison	14	5	6
Messrs. Lambton & Co., Bank, Newcastle.	20	0	0
A Friend, per Mr. Plummer	2	2	0
G. C., Bristol	0	1	0
Rev. W. A. Shute, Thornley	2	0	0
Ditto, after a Sermon at do.	5	9	10
Messrs. Rayne & Burn, Newcastle	5	5	0
Mr. Rutherford, Lambton	1	0	0
Messrs. Heiman & Kuper	10	10	0
Colonel Beckwith, Silksworth	5	0	0
Mr. D. Robson, Shipcote, Gateshead	5	0	0
Lieut. Usher, Seaham	1	0	0
Mr. W. J. Haddock, Hetton	1	1	0
Mrs. Sidgwick, Hartlepool	2	2	0
J. Rowell, Esq., do.	2	2	0
Mrs. Rowell, do.	1	1	0
Mr. J. Richardson, do.	1	1	0
Mr. J. Charer, do.	1	1	0
Mr. J. Pace, do.	1	0	0
Mr. R. Fawcas, do.	1	0	0
Rev. H. Yorke, do.	1	0	0
The Mayor of Hartlepool	2	0	0
Mr. W. S. Lindsay, Hartlepool	1	0	0
Small Sums at Hartlepool	7	10	4
Ditto at Easington	0	7	8
Mrs. Dalton, Long Hall	10	0	0
Collected in the parish of Elwick	6	8	0
Capt. Darling, Clifton Grove, York	5	0	0
Mrs. J. H. Hamilton, Hamilton House	1	0	0
Servants of R. Burdon, Esq., Castle Eden	0	13	0
Schoolmistress and Ghildren, do.	0	9	9
Mr. W. T. Tisher' do.	5	0	0
Lady Byron	20	0	0
G. R. Wharton, Esq., London	10	0	0
W. Bell, Esq., for Colliery	40	0	0
J. Stevenson, Esq., Ryton	3	3	0
W. Dent Dent, Esq., Shortflat Tower	2	2	0
Mrs. Dent, do.	1	1	0
Mr. Henry Barras, Castle Eden	2	0	0
W. Chapman, Esq., Newcastle	5	0	0
Abel Chapman, Esq., do.	5	0	0
J. Percival, Esq., per Mr. Challener, do.	1	1	0
Mr. E. W. Challoner, do.	1	1	0
Sundry Subscriptions, per Rev. A. Duncombe Shaftoe	63	14	8
Executors of the late J. Dunn, Esq.	5	0	0
Mrs. W. Woodlands	3	3	0
Workmen of R. Stephenson & Co., Newcastle	13	2	6
Mrs. Hunter, Westgate, do.	15	0	0
George Boyd, Esq., do.	3	3	0
Messrs. Mountain & Son, do.	5	5	0
Messrs. Coxwell & Croser, do.	2	2	0
N. W. Stephens, Esq., Plymouth	1	1	0
The Right Hon. Lord Howden & Partners, Wingate Grange Colliery	50	0	0
The Right Hon. Lord Ravensworth & Partners, for Collieries	50	0	0
T. R. E. Braddyll, Esq., & Co., South Hetton Colliery	100	0	0

Digitized by Google

Percy Main Colliery	20	0	0
Backworth Colliery	20	0	0
West Cramlington Colliery	20	0	0
Holywell Colliery	20	0	0
Anonymous	1	0	0
The Gentlemen of the Jury of the Burgess and Non-Burgess Court, Newcastle, Oct. 22, per John Wardle	0	12	0
Joseph Hawks, Esq., Woodlands	10	0	0
Miss Dalton, Longhall, Guisbro'	£3	0	0
Miss Isabella Dalton, do.	3	0	0
Percy Main Colliery	20	0	0
Backworth Colliery	20	0	0
West Cramlington Colliery	20	0	0
Holywell Colliery	20	0	0
Messrs. Charleton and Watson, Coal Exchange, London	5	5	0
Messrs. Clarke & Bruges, do.	5	5	0
Messrs. Duke & Hill, do.	5	5	0
Alfred Penny, Esq., do.	5	0	0
W. Bacon, Esq., Chilton House	2	2	0
W. Beckwith, Esq.	1	1	0
The Rev. E. S. Thurlow, Houghton-le-Spring	20	0	0
The Rev. R. Shepherd, do.	1	0	0
The Rev. I. Stewart, do.	1	0	0
The Rev. A. D. Shafto, do.	1	0	0
Mr. Mark Elliot, do.	5	0	0
Mr. T. Robinson, do.	2	2	0
Mr. P. Dunn, do.	1	0	0
Mr. S. Greene, do.	1	0	0
Mr. George Hopper, do	3	0	0
Mr. T. Y. Hall, do.	2	2	0
The Rev. Dr. Young, do.	2	0	0
Mr. Robert Porter, do.	1	5	0
Mr. Goodricke, do	1	0	0
Young Gentlemen at Mr. Goodricke's Academy, do.	3	0	0
Mr. J. Gibson, do.	1	0	0
Mr. W. Wilson, do.	1	0	0
Collected after a Sermon by the Rev. R. Shepherd, do.	10	5	3
Small Sums at do.	6	18	6
Mr. J. Taylor, Castle Eden	5	5	0
Mr. Hearty, Sunderland	1	0	0
Mr. C. Procter, Castle Eden	1	0	0
W. W. Burdon, Esq., Hartford House	10	10	0
M. Nesbit, Esq., Newcastle	2	2	0
Mr. Barkas, Team Colliery	1	1	0
Workmen at Team Colliery	4	0	6
J. Hogg, Esq., Norton	1	1	0
Messrs. Bailey Brothers, Liverpool	10	0	0
Mr. F. Robson, do	1	0	0
Anonymous at Newcastle	1	0	0
Sir W. Eden, Windleston	10	0	0
Edward Smith, Esq., Sheffield	20	0	0
Collection at St. Margaret's Church, Durham	10	0	0
Collection at St. Mary-le-Bow Church, do.	14	16	0
Collection at St. Nicholas's Church, do.	10	0	4½
Major General Shadforth	5	0	0
Mrs. Smales	3	0	0
Mrs. Wilson	2	0	0
Miss Fawcett	2	0	0
Miss E. Fawcett	2	0	0
Rev. T. Chevalier	2	0	0
James Turner, Esq., Colchester	2	0	0
J. Bramwell, Esq.	1	0	0
Mr. Rippon, Durham	2	0	0
Rev. W. S. Temple, Dinsdale	2	0	0
Mr. Henshaw	1	0	0
Mr. A. Brydon	1	0	0
Mr. T. Bagley	1	0	0
Collected at Stranton Church, after a Sermon by the Rev. R. Webster	9	14	0
Charles Milner, Esq., Biddick House	2	0	0
Collected after a Sermon at Chester-le-Street Church, by the Rev. Mr. Edmonds	14	5	3
Rev. J. H. Ripley, Chester-le-Street	5	0	0
Mr. Welford, Hexham	0	10	0
Mr. J. F. Downing, Richmond, Surrey	1	0	0
Mr. E. E. Bell	0	10	0
A Friend, per Mr. C. Rayne	5	0	0
George Carr, Esq., Newcastle	5	5	0
Messrs. Mountain & Son's Workmen, do.	1	13	3
	£3,722	2	10

J. W. DAY, Hon. Secretary.

Wellfield, Castle Eden, Oct. 31, 1844.

Unusually Large Coal Market.—The largest coal-market which has occurred in London for many years, took place on Monday, Oct. 28. There were 282 cargoes, amounting probably to upwards of 80,000 tons, sold and passed-off. There were 340 cargoes at market, only 58 of which remained unsold. And the sales were effected without a greater reduction in price than about a shilling per ton in the "*best*" coals.

Mr. Topliff.—This gentleman, on Wednesday, Oct. 23, gave a musical entertainment at the Grey Horse inn, Gateshead. It is pleasant to state that the present occasion is a re-visit, caused by the satisfaction which his previous exertions to delight had given. It is some years since Mr. Topliff produced testimonials to the parishioners of one of the principal district churches in the neighbourhood of London. These testimonials were so strong as to create almost a unanimous feeling in his favour, which to the present day has not been diminished; and in like manner, wherever he has given one of his "evenings," a wish for a repetition has been always expressed.—*Newcastle Advertiser*. [Mr. Topliff has this week given his new entertainment, "Touch and Go," with the addition of a "Local Melange," at Sunderland, Durham, Gateshead, and North and South Shields. His audiences were numerous and respectable; and in Gateshead, (as also, perhaps, in other places,) the encouragement which he received induced him to announce a repetition of his performances. He will re-visit our borough on Wednesday, Oct. 30.]

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

The annual election of Councillors took place yesterday (Nov. 1), and Mayors, Sheriffs, and Aldermen will be elected on Saturday next. Yesterday's elections ended as follows:—

NEWCASTLE.

Ward of St. Nicholas.—Retiring Councillors, Mr. George Straker and Mr. W. L. Harle. Candidates, Mr. Harle, Mr. W. Gibson, and Mr. H. A. Mitchell. Elected, Messrs. Gibson (258 votes) and Harle (232). Defeated, Mr. Mitchell (125).

St. John's.—Retiring Councillors, Mr. Emerson Charnley and Mr. Matthew Plues. Candidates, Mr. Charnley, Mr. S. Parker, and Mr. J. H. Preston. Elected, Messrs. Parker (223) and Charnley (163). Defeated, Mr. Preston (118).

East All Saints'.—Retiring Councillors, Mr. Joseph Crawhall and Mr. Stephen Lowrey. Candidates, Mr. Crawhall, Mr. Lowrey, and Mr. Ralph Walters. Elected, Messrs. Lowrey (304) and Crawhall (296). Defeated, Mr. Walters.

West All Saints'.—Retiring Councillors, Mr. James Silliek and Mr. John Thomas Carr. Reëlected.

North St. Andrew's.—Retiring Councillors, Mr. R. P. Philipson and Mr. T. W. Keenlyside. Reëlected.

South St. Andrew's.—Mr. M. L. Jobling and Mr. F. Sanderson. Reëlected.

Westgate.—Mr. James Finlay. Reëlected.

Jesmond.—Retiring Councillor, Mr. Robert Plummer. Candidates, Mr. N. Lambert and Mr. J. Wakinshaw. Elected, Mr. Lambert (70). Defeated, Mr. Wakinshaw (35).

GATESHEAD.

East Ward.—Retiring Councillors, Mr. James Hymers and Mr. Charles Dunn. Candidates, Mr. James Hymers, Mr. William Cook, Mr. Frederick Glenton, and Mr. William Brown. Elected, Hymers (93), and Cook (93). Defeated, Brown (87), and Glenton (44). This contest excited great interest in the borough.

West.—Retiring Councillors, Mr. William Kenmir and Mr. Thomas Cummins. Reëlected without opposition.

South.—Retiring Councillors, Mr. Thomas Sowerby and Mr. Daniel Robson. Candidates, Mr. John Robson and Mr. C. J. Pearson. Elected without opposition.

[Mr. Alderman Barras, we understand, has signified his intention of not becoming a candidate for reëlection to the office of Alderman for this borough, at the ensuing election on the 9th inst. We regret this decision of the worthy Alderman; because (and we feel pleasure in recording our opinion) we consider that there is not any one member of the Town Council who has acted more honourably and impartially than himself. We say this with the more satisfaction, inasmuch as Mr. Barras and ourselves, in politics, have always been decidedly, though consten-

Digitized by Google

tionally opposed. Mr. Kennie, the present Mayor, it is believed, will be selected by the Town Council as the successor of Mr. Burrus.]

SUNDERLAND.

SUNDERLAND WARD.—Retiring Councillors, Messrs. Christopher Bramwell and John Ritson. Candidates, Messrs. John Mowbray, William Carling, and J. M. Cooper. Elected, Mr. Mowbray (106), and Mr. Cooper (105). Defeated, Mr. Carling (104). A Liberal and a Tory take the seats of two Tories.

BISHOPWEARMOUTH.—Retiring Councillors, Messrs. Joseph Lee and Thomas Brown. Candidates, Messrs. Thomas Brown and John Ray. No opposition. Tory and Liberal returned, in the room of two Tories.

MONKWEARMOUTH.—Retiring Councillors, Messrs. G. Bolam and T. Oliver. Candidates, Messrs. W. Baynes and William Burdis.

ST. MICHAEL'S.—Retiring Councillors, Messrs. John Hopper and James Hills. Candidates, Messrs. Hills and W. Dobinson. No opposition.

BISHOP.—Retiring Councillors, Messrs. Joseph Young and William Dobinson. Candidates, Messrs. William Muschamp, W. T. Bell, and T. Burn. Elected, Messrs. Bell (58) and Muschamp (53). Defeated, Mr. Burn (15).

EAST.—Retiring Councillors, Messrs. William Nicholson and John Barry. Reelected.

WEST.—Retiring Councillors, Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., and Mr. William Muschamp. Candidates, Sir Hedworth and Mr. Matthew Kearney. No opposition.

[The Liberals have increased their strength in the Council by the present elections. But if the *Sunderland Herald* speak truly (and we believe it does), the burgesses are to be told, on Saturday next, that politics are to be disregarded in municipal elections, and that they are all in the wrong when they vote against such candidates as Messrs. Bramwell and Ritson.]

DURHAM.

ST. NICHOLAS' WARD.—Returned, Messrs. Veitch (126) and Tiplady (123). Defeated, Mr. Telfair, a Tory, (120). Two Liberals elected.

NORTH WARD.—Messrs. W. Brignal and John Marshall, Whigs, and Mr. T. Monkhouse, Tory, were the candidates. Recriminations, an objection being taken to Mr. Monkhouse.

SOUTH WARD.—Returned, Messrs. E. Peale (122) and A. Wilkinson (94). Defeated, Mr. Shields (60), a Whig. Two Tories elected.

STOCKTON.

EAST WARD.—Elected, Messrs. Edward Hodgson, Thomas Plews, and Henry Walker.

WEST WARD.—Elected, Messrs. John Boles, Robert Gass, and James Sudron.

MORPETH.

Retiring Councillors, Messrs. Anthony Charlton, Thomas Jobling, John Creighton, and George Hood. Reelected.

GATESHEAD FREE TRADE SOCIETY.—The annual business-meeting was held on Monday, Oct. 28, at Miss Murray's, the Half Moon inn. About thirty of the members were present, (Mr. Joseph Clephan in the chair). Officers and committee were elected for the ensuing year, (George Crawshay, Esq., being chosen President and Treasurer, and Mr. T. Pringle, Secretary). It was resolved that weekly meetings should be held during the winter, to diffuse free-trade principles and information in the borough. The first public meeting will shortly be announced.

GATESHEAD BRITISH SCHOOLS.—The Committee are now so fully impressed with the necessity for having spacious and well-ventilated school-rooms, that they have determined on making an effort to raise a fund, by public subscription, for the erection of a suitable building. If the Committee carry out their resolution with spirit and vigour, they will no doubt meet with that liberal support so excellent an object deserves.

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

THE Persons hereinafter named and described, were, on this first day of November, 1844, duly elected COUNCILLORS of the several Wards of the said Borough hereinafter inserted:—

EAST WARD.

JAMES HYMERS, Ellison-street, Gentleman.
WILLIAM COOK, Bridge-street, Brewer.

WEST WARD.

WILLIAM KENNIE, Mulgrave-terrace, Brewer.
THOMAS CUMMINS, West-street, Painter.

SOUTH WARD.

JOHN ROBSON, High-street, Draper.
CHARLES JOHN PEARSON, High-street, Builder.

WILLIAM KELL, Town Clerk.

Town Hall, November 1, 1844.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE EAST WARD OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to offer you my Thanks for the confidence you have again reposed in me, in electing me, once more, as one of your Representatives in the Town Council.

I feel also much obliged to the Windmill-Hills Wall-Builders and their followers, for the distinguished honour they, too, have conferred upon me:—*I* mean, the honour of their paltry trickery and powerless opposition. And I beg to assure both you and them, that I shall never cease from urging upon the Town Councillors of Gateshead, not only the necessity of protecting the inhabitants of the Borough from those rapacious experiments on their property, to which, for several years past, they have been exposed, but the propriety, also, of remembering that Councillors are elected for the purpose, *not* of defeating, but of promoting, the ends of justice.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
Ellison-street, Nov. 1, 1844. JAMES HYMERS.

FINAL STATE OF THE POLL.

Mr. James Hymers	93	Mr. William Brown....	87
Mr. William Cook	93	Mr. Frederick Glenton..	44

TO THE MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE EAST WARD OF THE BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—As I had anticipated, you have returned me one of your Representatives in the Town Council.

For the distinguished honour you have conferred upon me, accept my warmest thanks; and rest assured that I shall, upon all occasions, fearlessly and faithfully discharge the important duties pertaining to the duties of the office.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient, humble Servant,
WILLIAM COOK.
Blue Bell Inn, Gateshead, Nov. 1, 1844.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SOUTH WARD OF THE BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to return you my best thanks for electing me one of your Representatives in the Town Council, and to assure you that my care will be to merit your approval, by discharging the duties of that office to the best of my power.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,
JOHN ROBSON.
High-street, Gateshead, November 1, 1844.

TO THE BURGESSES OF THE SOUTH WARD OF THE BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to tender my best thanks for the honour you have conferred upon me, by electing me one of your Representatives in the Town Council, and to assure you that my utmost exertions shall always be used in promotion of any measure that, in my opinion, may tend to the improvement of the Borough generally.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient Servant,
High-street, Nov. 1, 1844. CHARLES J. PEARSON.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE WEST WARD OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—Most sincerely I thank you for the kind feeling you have this day expressed in again electing me one of your Representatives in the Town Council. Having already served you for nine years, I feel great pleasure in knowing that my conduct is so much in accordance with your wishes. Be assured that I shall endeavour to retain your good opinion. I am, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient Servant,
14, West-street, Nov, 1, 1844. THOMAS CUMMINS.

Digitized by Google

TO THE BURGESSES OF THE WEST WARD OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—I thank you for Reëlecting me one of your Representatives in the Town Council. I shall endeavour, by an an attentive discharge of my Duties, to continue to deserve the confidence you have again reposed in me.

I remain, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

Mulgrave-terrace, Nov. 2, 1844. W. KENMIR.

REDUCTION OF THE STADE TOLLS.

THE Stade tolls, after a period of thirty years of almost unresisted abuse by the Sovereigns of Hanover, have been reduced to something more like their legal proportions as they were settled by treaty. By an arrangement recently concluded between the Governments of Great Britain and Hanover, these imposts have been cut down to about one-third of the amount to which King Ernest made pretension; and the claim which his Majesty somewhat arrogantly advanced to vary them at pleasure, has, as we are informed, been finally abandoned. The tolls are, moreover, to be collected for the future in a manner the least troublesome and injurious to commerce in the Elbe. This is certainly a concession. It comes somewhat late, and it is, still, less than Great Britain had a right to demand; but we have no hesitation in saying that both the shipowner and owner of cargoes proceeding up the Elbe will find their burdens sensibly diminished by virtue of this treaty. Perhaps we could not better illustrate the benefits which the treaty has conferred on British navigation in the Elbe, than by quoting the following interesting letter, which was addressed a few days since, by Mr. John Ormston, of Newcastle, to a gentleman of this town:—

DEAR SIR,—I am glad to tell you that the Stade charges have undergone a change; and a very pleasant one it is for shipowners having vessels visiting the Elbe. I had two vessels there during the present month—both the same size:—the one was charged the old rate of Stade duty, viz., 45 marks: the other the new, which is only 10 marks. Difference, 35 marks; being a saving of about £2 3s. 6d.

I thus consider myself a debtor to the excellent Member for Gateshead, Mr. Hutt, to a considerable extent, as the like saving will happen with each of my traders. Yours truly,

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, October 29, 1844. JOHN ORMSTON.

Mr. Ormston's letter relates to the reduction of tolls on the shipowner:—we have no doubt that similar acknowledgments will soon be made of the yet more important abatement of tolls on cargoes.

The payments to which commerce on the Elbe used to be subject, under the name of Stade tolls, were of various kinds.

First, taxes on the cargo of every ship (the flag of Hamburgh excepted) proceeding up the river. The printed tariff under which these taxes were levied was an extremely curious article in the history of modern commerce; curious, not merely on account of the rate of the tolls, but for their variety and complexity. It was, indeed, a revolting instrument of exaction. It taxed, in detail, 2,368 articles by name; but by frequently imposing on the same article different duties, according to the form it assumed or the name by which it was described, no less than 6,688 various kinds of duties came into operation. There were 35 different duties imposed upon iron goods, 32 upon yarn or twist, 18 upon sugar, 42 upon leather, 36 upon oil, and 126 upon wood. The consequence of all this complexity was most serious embarrassment to commerce. The merchant trading to the North of Germany could never inform himself, beforehand, how much his goods would pay, in transit up the Elbe, for Stade duties. Instances have been cited in which these duties exceeded the invoice-value of the goods. But this was not all. The proceedings of the Hanoverian collector, in the case of any erroneous entries or mistakes in the ship's papers, were vexatious in the highest degree. Mr. Hutt mentioned, in the House of Commons, a case in which the eminent Hull firm of Messrs. George Loft & Co. had to pay a fine of £215, and to suffer a long detention of their ship, the *Fairy*, by the Hanoverian authorities, because three bales of cotton-twist in her cargo were entered in one of the bills of lading as "bales of cottons," the difference in the Stade duties being 7s.! We believe that the official pamphlet which the Hanoverian Government published in reply to Mr. Hutt, denied the correctness of the pecuniary statement. It admitted the other facts, but alleged that the fine was *only* £150! Such, however, were, by confession, the tender mercies of Hanover.

The second class of taxes were taxes on the ship. They were of two kinds. The ship-toll and the car-duty. These rates were very high—were unwarranted by treaty—and were liable to an almost arbitrary augmentation on the part of the collector.

Thirdly, there was a class of exactions passing under the names of "commission," "ship's expenses," and "return certificate;" which, though they were disclaimed by the Hanoverian Government in reply to Mr. Hutt's speech, were uniformly exacted by the collecting officers, who suffered no ship to be cleared till they were paid.

Such were the means by which the Kings of Hanover had not scrupled to raise a considerable revenue from the commerce in the Elbe. Mr. Hutt, in the absence of official documents, calculated the revenue, we believe, at £60,000. Subsequent inquiries, however, have shown that it did not, on an average of years, exceed £50,000; of which Great Britain paid more than one-half. The injury which the collecting of it has done to our commerce, must not, however, be estimated by the amount of this forced contribution. Germany has been by far the largest customer for British goods; and of the five or six millions' worth of British commodities imported into Germany, five-sixths were carried up the river Elbe, and became the subject of Hanoverian exaction and caprice.

Our representative, Mr. Hutt, having directed much study and attention to the question of Hanover's right in this matter, demanded of our Government the restoration of the tariff to the form prescribed by treaty—an alteration which would have brought down the receipts of Hanover from £50,000 to about £5,000 annually. Some communications on the subject were made to Hanover by the British Government, and the King pointedly refused compliance with the demand. "Upon which," says the *Edinburgh Review* (vol. 74), "the question was brought under the notice of Parliament by Mr. Hutt, whose speeches on this subject, and on the Sound dues, entitle him to the thanks of all interested in British commerce. A strong expression of opinion went forth from both sides of the House. This circumstance so far abated the pertinacity of Hanover, that Lord Palmerston succeeded in inducing the Government of that country to consent to a revision of the existing tariff." Lord Palmerston then formally and distinctly notified to Hanover that Great Britain would no longer consent to the continuance of these tolls, except on the legal basis of one-sixteenth per cent. on the value of cargoes, as marked in the invoices. On this footing it is pretty certain that the tolls would have been adjusted for the future; but a change taking place, at that crisis of the negotiation, in the Government of this country, the settlement was again postponed, and Lord Aberdeen seemed disposed to let it repose once more beneath the cobwebs of the Foreign Office. Mr. Hutt therefore very properly returned to his labours, and again claimed the protection of Parliament for British commerce against the exactions of Hanover. The negotiations were consequently resumed; and exactly thirty years after Hanover had recommenced collecting its arbitrary Stade tolls, the tolls have been formally recognized and regulated by a treaty of commerce with the British Government. The rate has been fixed too high. One-sixteenth per cent, which Mr. Hutt justly contended for, would have reduced the payment of our merchants and shipowners to about one-ninth part of what has hitherto been exacted from them by Hanover. Mr.

Digitized by Google

Gladstone has consented to terminate the dispute by guaranteeing to the Hanoverian Crown the payment of about one-third of the money previously extorted.

MEETING FOR THE RELIEF OF THE WIDOWS AND CHILDREN OF THE SUFFERERS AT HASWELL COLLIERY.

AT an adjourned Meeting, held this day, for the purpose of soliciting Subscriptions for the Relief of the Relatives of the Sufferers at Haswell Colliery, (the REV. H. G. LIDDELL in the chair,)

Resolved,—That a General Meeting of the Subscribers be held at the Castle Eden Inn, on MONDAY, the 18th of November inst., at 12 o'clock at noon, for the purpose of appointing a Committee for the Application of the Subscriptions.

The Committee, being anxious to bring the arrangements to a conclusion, respectfully request that all Subscriptions be paid into the Northumberland and Durham District Bank, at Sunderland, as early as possible, to the credit of the Rev. H. G. Liddell, Chairman of the Committee.

H. G. LIDDELL, Chairman.

Castle Eden Inn, Nov. 4, 1844.

ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE RELIEF OF THE RELATIVES OF THE SUFFERERS AT HASWELL COLLIERY.

Workmen at Murton Colliery, South Hetton	£9	16	10
——— East Holywell Colliery	2	16	6
Lieut. Dangerfield, R.N.	1	0	0
Small Sums at Seaham Harbour	2	17	3
——— Elwick Hall	0	4	0
——— Easington	0	2	6
——— Newbottle	3	12	0
Owners of Seghill Colliery	20	0	0
——— Felling Colliery	10	0	0
Messrs. Cole & Hunter, Framwellgate Colliery	1	0	0
Mrs. Hannah Carr, Haswell	0	10	0
Miss Burdon, Castle Eden	1	0	0
Miss Mary Burdon, ditto	1	0	0
George M'Cartney, Esq.	1	0	0
The Rev. I. Graham, Castle Eden	1	0	0
Servants of Mrs. Burdon, Castle Eden	1	5	0
——— T. Richardson, Esq., ditto	0	9	6
Thomas Wood, Esq., Hardwick Hall	5	5	0
Mr. Storrow, Newbottle	1	0	0
Mr. Harrison, Bunker Hill	1	1	0
Mr. Archbold, Newbottle	1	1	0
Pitmen of Newbottle Colliery	2	4	4
Mr. Samuel Dix, Bristol, per Mr. Briggs	0	10	0
Collections at St. Thomas's, Newcastle	36	6	0
——— St. John's Scotch Church, Newcastle	7	0	0
Anthony Hood & Co.	3	3	0
Losh, Wilson, & Bell	10	0	0
George Johnson, Esq., Willington	1	1	0
W. H. Lambton, Esq.	20	0	0
W. E. Brockett, Esq., Newcastle	1	1	0
J. C. Langlands, Esq., ditto	2	0	0
W. C. Walters, Esq., ditto	3	0	0
Newcastle Mechanics' Society	1	0	0
Aug. Leidemann, Hamburgh	0	10	6
Messrs. R. Todd & Co., Newcastle	3	0	0
Mrs. Ibbetson, Hebburn Hall	10	0	0
Nicholas Wood, Esq., Killingworth	10	10	0
Total	£3882	17	0

J. W. DAY, Hon. Secretary.

Wellfield, Castle Eden, Nov. 7, 1844.

AN UGLY "CUSTOMER."—On Tuesday, Nov. 5, a young bull, being on the spree, called upon Messrs. Mather & Reed, the Gateshead ironmongers, and made a "grand tour" of their premises—first inspecting the stoves and the fire-grates with a knowing look—next bellowing his approbation of the bellows—then meditating among the mousetraps—and afterwards stumbling out of the frying-pans into the fire-irons. Having closed his survey of the front shop, he then deliberately mounted the steps into the back-office, but felt ill at ease on discovering that he had not space to turn; for the room was hardly big enough "to swing a cat in," and our bull, therefore, found it quite impossible to have *his* "swing." By this time, Messrs. M. & R. had come to the conclusion that their customer would be more plague than profit to them. He had done no business with them, beyond "looking at some fenders," and "beating them down" so violently as to break one of them in two! So Mr. Bull was taught to retire from the premises backwards—a lesson which may be of service to him on a future day, if (as is not unlikely) he should ever take it into his head to attend one of her Majesty's levees!

MR. BUCK'S LECTURES.—During the present week, Mr. J. H. Buck, successor to that celebrated lecturer, Mr. John Smith, has delivered the first and second of a course of four lectures on the Beauties of Geographical Science, in the Victoria Hall, head of Grey-street, Newcastle, to highly respectable audiences. The subject admits of abundant and varied pictorial illustration, and Mr. Buck has liberally availed himself of this advantage. Aided by the Drummond (or improved oxyhydrogen) light, and a copious assortment of paintings, he presents to his audiences "dissolving views" of large size, including cities, rivers, lakes, mountains, caverns, &c., &c., &c. His concluding lectures are to be given on Monday and Thursday next.—Nov. 9.

MR. WILLIAM GILL THOMPSON.

"Besides acknowledged professional ability, he possessed considerable poetical talent and varied literary attainments, and contributed to the periodicals of the day a variety of pieces, both in verse and prose, which were very generally and deservedly admired. He was 48 years of age, and had been twenty years reporter to the *Newcastle Chronicle*. He has left a wife and seven children wholly unprovided for."—*Local Obituary*.

WHERE sleep they now, the bards of Coaly Tyne!
Mute is the music of their minstrelsy!
They wake no song, nor theme, nor yet a line:
They strike no mournful chord, upon their harps, for thee.
Unwept, unheeded, over thee and thine
Oblivion's mantle falls in heavy gloom:
No flowers, no wreaths, no chaplets bless the shrine
Where thou art laid; nor yet upon thy tomb
Can Friendship find a trace of thine untimely doom.
'Tis past! and thou art number'd with the dead—
With that which has been; and thou art no more.
The flame that fired thy glowing Muse is fled,
The poet's ardent thirst for well-earned fame is o'er.
No more, through fields of flowery fancy led,
Will thy unsullied Muse pursue her way:
Upon thy path her last of light is shed,
No more will she thy glad behest obey,
Even from thy tomb she turns in sorrow and dismay!
Upon thy errors and thy failings be
Oblivion's mantle, then, for ever laid:
Let gentle Pity's censure turn from thee,
And save from utter wreck the ruin thou hast made.
More than one "little child of misery"
Pleads for this boon. Oh! may their suppliant wail
Awake for their sad lot some sympathy,
And, better far than Sorrow's harrowing tale,
With unknown friends and untried hearts prevail.
Never again to hail thy well-known tread,
With anguish gather'd on each little brow,
Thy children, crying for the unbought bread,
Crouch round thy joyless hearth in desolation now.
For them the couch of early grief is spread,
Their first of feeling blighted in its bloom,
Life's earliest dawn of Hope to them is dead,
Unless Compassion dissipate the gloom
That overshadows them, and darkens round thy tomb.
The wand is broken, and the spell is past:
The wizard's transient, fleeting reign is o'er:
The minstrel's music falls upon the blast,
And Coaly Tyne's green banks resound his strains no more.
Thy Muse, from her first numbers to her last,
Has left, for Fame, not e'en one sullied line:
Not one lone word by thought impure o'ercast:
Through every page kind gentle feelings shine—
Mind revels there in might! and, oh! that mind is thine.
Would that I could but wake for thee a strain
Worthy the harp thy skill could strike so well!
My fingers wander o'er the chords in vain,
Nor note of joy or grief seems in the lyre to dwell.
Alas! for me it will not wake again,
Nor yield its swelling tones at touch of mine;
Yet I should still one ardent wish attain,
Could I Compassion's helping hand incline
To aid thy children now, who have no aid of thine.

November 5, 1844.

Digitized by Google

FREE TRADE MEETING IN GATESHEAD.

On Monday, Nov. 11, the Free Trade Society of this borough held a public meeting in the long-room of the Grey Horse inn, There was a large attendance, the room being nearly full.

Mr. John Fawcett was called to the chair.

Mr. Crawshay, the President of the Society, rose to address the meeting; but was interrupted, when he had uttered one or two words, by a burst of applause from a considerable number of persons, Mr. Doubleday having at that moment entered the room. Mr. Crawshay then proceeded with his speech (of which we shall give an abstract), and was heard attentively to the end. He began by alluding to the friendly reception which he had experienced at the outset of his public career in Gateshead, about twelve months ago. This he attributed to a conviction of his sincerity; and he was persuaded that, so long as his conduct kept that conviction alive in the breasts of his fellow-townsmen, he should never lose their confidence and support. The Free Trade Society had only to stand true to its principles—total repeal and no compromise (applause)—and it would be trusted and strong. It had been imputed to him that he was actuated by personal motives in agitating the free-trade question—that he aspired to represent the borough of Gateshead in parliament. There would be no harm in that, even though it were true, (laughter and applause); but as it was not true, he thought it right publicly to deny it. He was pushed forward by no other motive than his own strong convictions of the vital importance of free trade. From the time that he was twelve years of age, he had always been a commercial reformer; and when he saw a body like the League ably and vigorously labouring to free commerce from every link of its fetters, he felt called upon to take part in the battle, and entitle himself to share in the honour and the advantages of victory. (Applause.) Mr. Crawshay went on to explain the nature and history of the corn-law, and stated, in refutation of one of the fallacies of its friends, that the firm of which he was a member (Hawks & Crawshay) were now paying double the amount of wages that they paid twelve months ago (applause), and the wages of their workmen individually were somewhat higher—although, corn being cheap, the contrary ought to be the fact, if the doctrines of the monopolists were true. (Hear, hear.) He had no doubt, however, that if the corn laws remained in operation, the present improvement in trade would prove to be a transient blink of sunshine. In a few years, the country, with a million more mouths to fill, would be revisited by depression and distress still more severe than that from which it was now emerging, unless the corn-laws were repealed, and industry and commerce set free. (Applause.) He need not say a word against the sliding scale in a borough in which it had no friends. (Laughter.) The scale was supported by the Tories and the Whigs in office, for many years; until the latter, when at the last gasp, abandoned it in favour of a fixed duty. A fixed duty was the measure with which free-traders had now to contend; and he would show that its operation would be precisely that of the sliding scale—namely, to limit the supply. England did not grow enough corn for its own consumption. It was obliged to import corn from foreign parts. If, then, a fixed import-duty were imposed, the consumer must pay that duty, in addition to what the price would otherwise be; and he would have to pay the duty on all the homegrown corn as well; for until the grain of this country rose to the price at which duty-paid foreign corn could come into the market, there could none be imported. The corn-monopoly would consequently still exist; and taking into consideration the small quantity of foreign corn that would be consumed in proportion to the quantity of homegrown, the monopolist would pocket at least nine shillings for every shilling that was realized by the government as revenue. A fixed duty, therefore, was a gross and unmitigated injustice; and yet of this the honourable member for Gateshead was a supporter. (Applause.) He was aware that he was now treading on dangerous ground. (A cry of "No! truth is never dangerous.") That was his own opinion; and the society of which he was a member felt that it was not enough to spread the principles of free trade—those principles must also be carried out in the representation of the borough. 252 of the electors had signed a requisition to Mr. Hutt, requesting him to vote for Mr. Villiers's motion. The total number of the electors was about 560; but only 333 of them were found at home, when called upon with the requisition. He was therefore entitled to assume that an overpowering majority of the electors held the principles of total repeal; and the society would deserve to be hooted down, if they had called the inhabitants together again, without showing them how the representation of the borough was to be rendered consistent with the views of the electors.* He would proceed to examine the conduct of the present member. He would endeavour to do so candidly and truthfully. If, however, he should inadvertently misrepresent him, he would be delighted to hear Mr. Hutt say so. When first the society was established, Mr. Hutt had not voted for the annual motion of Mr. Villiers. A communication, however, was made to the society, by one of the members, that the honourable member intended to vote with Mr. Villiers in the session of 1844. He (Mr. Crawshay) naturally inferred from that circumstance a change of opinion. But in the debate on the motion Mr. Hutt corrected the error into which he had fallen; for although Mr. Villiers bound his followers, in the strongest terms, to the principles of total repeal, Mr. Hutt stated that he was still in favour of a fixed duty. Was it possible that the free-traders of Gateshead could be satisfied with such conduct? It showed that Mr. Hutt would vote with the total repealers so long as there was no chance of total repeal being carried; but when a fixed duty should be proposed, he would vote for it. If it were not so—if Mr. Hutt had no intention to desert Mr. Villiers—let him say so, and he (Mr. Crawshay) would eat his words. (Applause.) The honourable member longed for a fixed duty—the free-traders of Gateshead longed for total repeal—and therefore they were in opposition to each other.† He would now turn to the proceedings at the late public dinner. Mr. Hutt had there made a speech which still left the free-traders unsatisfied. There was plenty of fine words—plenty of promise of free trade—but still the fixed duty remained. The honourable member denounced the principle of protection in terms that no free trader could find fault with. He said:—

> I look upon our protecting duties as absurdities, or something worse than absurdities:—worse, because they are imposed with the hope of plundering one man in order to pamper another (applause)—and absurd, because these duties in reality neither pamper nor protect, but really injure both of the parties they affect. A few years ago it was the practice of some persons to carry about with them, when going to scenes of violence, small instruments singularly adapted for knocking out a man's brains—and these were facetiously called "life protectors!" In styling monopoly-regulations protecting duties, persons have adopted, it seems to me, a similarly whimsical misnomer.

He afterwards, however, qualified his anti-protection language, to an extent that was highly objectionable, by saying:—

> I distinguish, however, between duties levied for purposes of monopoly, and duties levied for purposes of revenue. I know no reason why a revenue is not to be raised from foreign corn, if it be necessary to raise it from the importation of other necessaries of life. That, however, is a matter of very subordinate importance.

On this passage of Mr. Hutt's speech he would offer one or two remarks. There was a juggle—or, in politer phrase, an ambiguity—in the use of the word "purposes." It was not the purpose, but the effect, of an import-duty, which the country had to consider; and he had already shown what the effect of an import-duty on wheat would be—that it would yield a mere trifle as revenue, but would give a large sum to the monopolists as protection. Adam Smith, in speaking of legitimate taxes, had laid it down that as little as possible should be taken out of the people's pockets beyond the amount of revenue realized by the government. A tax which should take ten shillings out of a man's pocket, and give nine of them to the monopolists and only one to the state, was not an impost for "purposes of revenue," but for protection. The *Morning Chronicle*, indeed, was in the habit of "letting the cat out of the bag," by calling the squires fools for rejecting the fixed duty of the Whigs, and thereby bringing upon themselves the total repeal of the League; for what was this but saying that a fixed duty would put money in the pockets of the squires? Mr. Hutt inquired why corn should be exempt from duty, if the other necessaries of life were taxed. This was to justify one injustice by another. But there was this difference between corn and other necessaries—that it was the greatest of all necessaries, and was chiefly grown at home. Tea, coffee, and sugar were imported from abroad, and the whole of the import-duty, or thereabouts, went to the government.‡ Mr. Hutt concluded the passage under consideration by describing the point to which he had referred as one of subordinate importance. If the honourable member thought that it was subordinate to him—a point of difference on which he would not make a stand—would not

Digitized by Google

oppose himself to the wishes of his constituents—he (Mr. Crawshay) was glad to hear it. But if Mr. Hutt had not yet made up his mind, it was desirable that he should do so before the next election; for the free-trade electors would feel it due to themselves so to act as that Gateshead, on that occasion, should stand, not among the Whig fixed-duty boroughs of England, but among the foremost of those that declared for total repeal. (Applause.) He would not vote at an election for a Tory or a monopolist at an election, in preference to a fixed-duty candidate; but where a free-trade borough could return a total repealer, it ought not to send a man to parliament favourable to a fixed-duty. He saw distinctly that unless the League were strong enough to prevent it, the Whigs would not wholly renounce the protective principle, but would adopt a fixed duty; while if the hands of the League were strengthened in parliament, the corn-laws would be totally abolished, with all other protective duties; and a grand national commercial policy would take its rise in Great Britain, under which she would not go about the world like a paltry pedlar, begging other countries to take her wares, but would throw open her ports to the merchandise of all nations, and leave them to please themselves whether they would take her products in return. (Applause.) He had no fear of foreigners. With free trade as the law of Englishmen, they would soon leave all monopolizing communities far behind. It was the viper which she nursed in her own bosom—the selfish lawmakers at home, not the manufacturers abroad—that England had reason to dread; and the snake, already scotched, must be killed outright. (Applause.) Mr. Crawshay referred to Mr. Cobden's observations on the forty-shilling franchise, and recommended them to the serious consideration of the free traders of the county of Durham. He felt most anxious, however, about the borough of Gateshead. It was all important that they should begin well at home. For himself, he was determined not to belong to a fixed-duty borough, if he could help it. He was aware of the difficulties that lay in the road; he knew that Mr. Hutt had many attached friends in the borough, and that the total repealers had no candidate in view; but they were not daunted by obstacles, nor would they be deterred from their purpose. The society, if properly supported, would go forward confident of success; and he now called upon the free-trade electors of Gateshead to enrol themselves as members, and lend their aid to those who were already enrolled. If Mr. Hutt were reëlected, the total repealers must consider themselves defeated. Defeat, however, would only be disgrace, if they made no vigorous effort for victory. For himself, he would not say that he would vote for *any* candidate that might be nominated, who had total repeal principles. There were many things to be considered in a candidate, besides his political opinions. There was personal character, for instance. He would vote for no man whom he could not respect as a friend. But no one could suppose for a moment that the Free Trade Society would bring forward a candidate whose private character was disreputable. The society intended to canvass the constituency with as little delay as possible, to ascertain how many of the electors were favourable to its principles and policy; and having made that canvass, it would know exactly in what position the free-trade party stood. Mr. Crawshay, after stating that the society met every Monday evening, at Miss Murray's, the Half Moon inn, and again calling upon the electors and other inhabitants to enrol themselves, concluded by moving a resolution against protecting duties, and pledging the meeting to oppose them by every lawful means.

Mr. T. Pringle, jun., seconded the motion, and observed, that Mr. Hutt's services in the cause of free trade had been urged in his favour. The same might be said for Sir Robert Peel. He, too, had promoted free trade, but the free-traders of Gateshead would hardly elect him as their representative.‖ He was inclined to think that they would much prefer such a man as Colonel Thompson. (Applause.) In a letter which he had addressed to the editor of the *Gateshead Observer*, and which was published in the *Tyne Mercury*, he had said that if certain members of the Free Trade Society were to vote consistently, and not make their principles succumb to private friendship, a total repealer would be elected for Gateshead. He had put the case hypothetically, and intended to convey no offensive imputation. He really thought what he said, and he repeated it.§ He regretted that Mr. Hutt did not come boldly out in the House of Commons, and give his support to the cause of free trade, the principles of which he so fully professed. Mr. Pringle concluded by stating that the names of new members would be received at the close of the meeting.

Mr. William Cook regretted that the Free Trade Society did not act more decisively. Some ground should be taken more attractive to the people than the abstract question of free trade. (Applause.) When the requisition to Mr. Hutt was got up, he had pointed out the folly of asking the honourable member to do what he had already intimated his intention to do. The answer was, that the requisition was chiefly designed to ascertain the sentiments of the electors. Well! what had the society done since? Nothing—until a fortnight ago; when it discarded those members who were bound up with the interests of Mr. Hutt. This was the best act the society had ever done; and he would now call upon Mr. Crawshay to follow it up by bringing forward a candidate in opposition to the present member. Colonel Thompson—a very proper man—had been alluded to. He would be very happy to assist the society in returning so worthy a candidate. The colonel was a good free-trader, and less contracted in his political creed than Mr. Crawshay. He was opposed to monopolies in commerce, and in legislation also. (Applause.)

Mr. Crawshay said, he had confined himself, in addressing a free-trade meeting, to free-trade topics. Mr. Cook was not justified in inferring that he had no opinion on any other question.

Mr. Cook begged pardon, and went on to observe, that Colonel Thompson would destroy the causes of commercial and other monopolies. By dint of great excitement the repeal of the corn laws might be obtained, but, with the representation of the people in its present state, what security was there that they would not be reënacted in the next twelve months? He would not move an amendment, but after Mr. Crawshay's motion was passed, he would submit another. (Applause.)

The Chairman put the motion to the meeting, and it was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Cook then proposed that steps be forthwith taken to invite Colonel Thompson to become a candidate. (Applause.)

Mr. Crawshay said, such a motion, in his opinion, was premature. It would not be prudent to bark before they could bite. He had stated that the electors would be canvassed, with a view to ascertain how many coincided with the society in principle and policy. If it should turn out that the society was in a minority, how silly and ridiculous it would look, with a candidate whom it had no power to return! The strength of the total repealers must first be ascertained, and they must then take their measures accordingly. If it should be found, as he expected, that they were in a majority, they would soon get a candidate who, instead of hanging back and fighting shy, would go vigorously onward in the cause of free trade. (Applause.) He hoped Mr. Cook would withdraw his motion. It would not be just to Colonel Thompson—that veteran free-trader, who most certainly ought to be in parliament—if he were exposed, by an act of imprudence, to a hopeless contest. He begged that the motion might be withdrawn, and that the free-traders of the borough would now come forward, and assist the society to attain a position in which it might prudently invite a candidate into the field. (Applause.)

Mr. Cook said that, having received from Mr. Crawshay so distinct a pledge that the electors would forthwith be canvassed, with a view to ascertain their sentiments as to the propriety of bringing Colonel Thompson forward as a candidate, he would withdraw his motion.¶ But as the society had already tested the electors by the requisition to Mr. Hutt, he would certainly recommend that a requisition to Colonel Thompson had better be got up at once. (Applause.)

Mr. Blagburn said, it was his intention to have made a few observations, but seeing Mr. Doubleday in the room, he would much prefer, and he was sure the meeting would much prefer, to listen to a speech from that eloquent gentleman. (Applause.)

Mr. Doubleday came forward amidst renewed applause, and glanced, with much delicacy and good feeling, at one or two reasons which induced him not to depart from the intention with which he came to the meeting—that of being simply a spectator of the proceedings.

Mr. Blagburn amused the meeting with one or two drolleries. The poor-law guardians at Thirsk, he said, were advertising for a schoolmaster, and the only qualification which they specified for the office was, that he should be a tailor! (Laugh-

Digitized by Google

ter.) Now, in Gateshead, certain free-traders seemed to him to be falling into the same error: they wanted the corn-laws repealed, but employed a fixed-duty man to do the work—they employed a tailor when they wanted a schoolmaster. (Laughter.) The monopolists, in dreaming that the League was dead, had fallen into another error. They reminded him of a hind at Spylaw who had a goose and a turkey. (Laughter.) The turkey was one day missing, and the neighbours said the goose had perhaps eaten it. (Great laughter.) Well! the goose began to sit on a number of eggs, and sat till they were all rotten; and then, out came the turkey from her hiding-place, with a brood of fine chickens at her heels; just as the League came out of the registration-courts, after hatching a brood of free-trade members of parliament, and convinced the world that it had not been devoured by that old goose, Monopoly, whose eggs were all rotten. (Laughter.) Before he sat down, he would say a word or two about Mr. Hutt's famous Biscuit Bill. By that bill, Mr. Abbot, as a shipowner, could victual his ships cheaper, and compete better with the foreign shipowner. But Mr. Abbot could not victual his chainmakers on the same terms, and thereby compete better with foreign chain-manufacturers. Why should not English chainmakers on land be victualled as cheaply as English mariners on the sea? He could see no reason for the distinction drawn by the bill, and the measure seemed to him to be the very reverse of enlightened!** Mr. Blagburn concluded by moving a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

The motion was seconded by Mr. CRAWSHAY, and carried unanimously; and the meeting separated.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

* The Gateshead Free Trade Society has changed its constitution. When first it was established, the question was put by Mr. T. Revely, "Whether, if he became a member, it would be understood that he was bound to vote for this or that candidate at an election? He was a total repealer (he said), and would gladly coöperate with a Society in diffusing his principles, but he would reserve to himself the discretion of carrying them out at an election in the manner which he thought best." Mr. Crawshay, and the members generally, replied, that every one would be perfectly at liberty to act, in a contested election, as he thought right. At the last annual meeting, however, Mr. Crawshay stated that he could not coöperate with free-traders who were not prepared to vote for a total and immediate repealer only:—in other words, he could not act with the supporters of Mr. Hutt. In this determination, a majority of the members present (about thirty) concurred; and several free-traders, who had *not* changed their views, but still thought it right to hold their votes in their own keeping, rather than confide them to the custody of a Society, at once withdrew. We did not name the secession at the time. We regretted that it had been rendered necessary, and hoped, by silence, to keep the breach from widening. But the proceedings of Monday night have brought the rupture before the public. The two parties still agree in principle: they differ only in policy.

† An ungenerous gloss, we think, is put upon the conduct of Mr. Hutt; and we are the more anxious to set the honourable member right with his constituents, because we pretty nearly coincide in his views. We have always supported Mr. Villiers, and we should be glad to see the corn-laws totally and immediately repealed. But if, not being able to obtain their immediate repeal, we could exchange the sliding scale for a small fixed duty, we would accept the substitution, however much our conduct might be misrepresented. "Half a loaf is better than no bread," and "of two evils choose the least." A fixed duty would be an evil, but, nevertheless, it would be far preferable to the sliding scale. We would therefore accept it. If it therefore be said that we *long* for a fixed duty, and that we have only supported Mr. Villiers because we knew that he had no chance of success, we can only reply that the imputation is undeserved.

‡ The objection urged by Mr. Crawshay to a fixed duty on corn is sound. It was well put by Mr. Cobden in the House of Commons, and afterwards by Sir Robert Peel. It has been advanced in metropolitan and provincial newspapers—the *Gateshead Observer* included. It is a mistake, however, to say, that coffee and sugar do not stand in the same category with corn. Coffee and sugar are not grown, it is true, in Britain, but they are products of the British empire; and the duties imposed upon our imports of coffee and sugar are so adjusted as that Her Majesty's subjects in the colonies, who supply us with those necessaries, enjoy a monopoly. There is no difference, therefore, in *kind*, whatever there may be in *degree*, between import-duties on corn and import-duties on coffee and sugar. They are alike open to the objection that they yield a revenue to monopolists as well as to the royal exchequer. There are free-traders, however, who think it no harm to abate the sugar and coffee monopoly, if they cannot at once abolish it; and yet, when the same policy is pursued in regard to the corn-monopoly, they condemn it! We think them in the right when they endeavour to mitigate, if they cannot cure, the monopoly which enhances the cost of those necessaries of life, sugar and coffee; and we did ample justice to the motives of Mr. Cobden and other Parliamentary Leaguers, when, preferring Sir Robert Peel's modification of the sugar-duties to that of Mr. Miles, they voted with the Ministry. But is not the same justice due to Mr. Hutt, when he contends that "if it be necessary to raise a revenue from the importation of *other* necessaries of life" (such as coffee and sugar), he "knows no reason why a revenue is not to be raised from foreign corn." We say the same. "Necessaries of life" are the last things that we would tax—especially those necessaries which we produce in our own empire. But if the exigencies of the State demand that "necessaries" be taxed, then corn may hardly hope to escape the fate of coffee and sugar. We think, however, that a sufficient revenue may be raised by less objectionable taxes.

‖ There is this slight difference between Mr. Hutt and Sir Robert Peel, namely, that the one is consistent, the other not. Sir Robert has continually been carrying measures which he had previously been branding as mischievous. On the questions of Test and Corporation Act Repeal, Catholic Emancipation, Free Trade, &c., he has invariably "turned his back upon himself." Other men have laboured, and he has entered into their labours. Other men have stood the brunt of the battle, and he has come in at the moment of victory. For ourselves, we are grateful for the enlarged civil and religious liberties which we enjoy, not to men like Sir Robert Peel, the mere tools of circumstances, but to those courageous and consistent men who bore the burden and heat of the day in the worst of times.

‡ We know no free-trader in Gateshead who makes his principles succumb to private friendship. Some, indeed, of the "certain members" alluded to, are personally unknown to Mr. Hutt, and can only support him from principle. They give Mr. Crawshay, and those who think with him, credit for sincerity. They concede to them the right of taking the course on which they have now entered. They think them bound, indeed, as honest men, to follow out their convictions. They only doubt their wisdom, and find fault with them for refusing to others that justice which they claim for themselves. They should consider that the motives of those who differ from them may be as pure and patriotic as their own.

¶ The coöperation of so tried and zealous a friend of free trade as our adroit townsman, Mr. Cook, will no doubt be found far more serviceable than that of the "discarded" members of the Gateshead Society.

** Mr. Blagburn is, after all, the most consistent of the ultras. He cannot tolerate the removal of one single stone from the fabric of Monopoly, until the whole be thrown to the ground together. To repeal the corn-laws on board our ships that go to foreign parts, as Mr. Hutt has done by his "Biscuit Bill," is, in Mr. Blagburn's opinion, the "reverse of enlightened." The honourable member, when he found it impracticable to repeal the corn-laws on the land as well as on the sea, ought to have left his shipowning countrymen, and our millers and bakers, unbenefited by his Bill. Before the passing of it, British ships, employed in the foreign trade, were supplied with biscuit chiefly by the foreign baker. The Bill has transferred the trade to the English baker, and very grateful he is to Mr. Hutt for the change. Mr. Blagburn, however, (perhaps in waggery—for really his strictures seem designed to throw ridicule on the animadversions of others,) Mr. Blagburn thinks it "unenlightened" thus to narrow the foundations on which Monopoly stands. He reminds us of certain sage critics, who carp at the League because it confines itself to corn. "Why don't you attack *all* monopolies?" they ask. The champions of the League answer, and wisely, "By concentrating our strength against the monster-monopoly, we work with more effect; and when once we have overthrown the monopoly in corn, the other monopolies will fall of themselves." Every breach made in the walls—and Mr. Hutt's Biscuit Bill was one—weakens the superstructure, and prepares it for its downfall. The very measure which he contemned supplied Mr. Blagburn with a powerful argument against the corn-laws. Our sailors eat untaxed bread at sea—why should our chainmakers be bread-taxed on land? The point is a good one, and we may thank Mr. Hutt that we have it.

THE GATESHEAD TOWN COUNCIL.

p THOMAS CUMMINS, Esq., Mayor.

ALDERMEN.	COUNCILLORS.		
		p Hymers, J.	p Robson, John
p Brockett, W. H.	p Bertram, C.	Kent, Samuel	p Robson, Jos.
p Davis, Robert	p Cook, W.	p Lister, J., sen.	p Smith, James
p Kenmir, W.	p Edward, J.	p Lister, J., jun.	p Revely, T.
p Pollock, James	p Garbutt, C.	p Pearson, C. J.	p Wilson, J. R.
Sowerby, G.		p Potts, John	p Wylam, Ralph
p Wilson, Thos.			

[Those marked p were present.]

THE Council assembled on the 1st Nov., in pursuance of the Municipal Act; and when the prescribed forms had been observed by the Town Clerk,

Mr. POTTS briefly nominated Mr. Thomas Cummins for the office of Mayor for the ensuing year.

Mr. Ald. BROCKETT seconded the nomination, and it was unanimously confirmed by the Council.

Mr. CUMMINS having made the usual oaths and declarations, the late Mayor (W. Kenmir, Esq.) vacated the civic chair, and the new Mayor reigned in his stead, and briefly acknowledged the honour conferred upon him by the Council.

Mr. REVELY moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Kenmir for his very efficient services. He believed—and it was the general belief—that the late Mayor had done honour to himself and the borough. (Applause.)

Mr. Ald. DAVIS seconded the motion, and it was carried by acclamation.

Mr. KENMIR returned thanks. Whatever defects, he said,

Digitized by Google

there might have been in the performance of his duties, he could lay his hand upon his heart, and say he had done his best. (Applause.) He felt much indebted to his brother Magistrates and their Clerk, and to the Town Council and the Town Clerk, for their kind assistance and support, and begged them to accept his most cordial thanks. (Applause.)

The TOWN CLERK read a letter from Mr. Ald. Barras, of which the following is a copy:—

Gateshead, October 31st, 1844.

DEAR SIR,—As the time for which I was elected an Alderman of Gateshead will expire on the 9th of November, I beg to state to you, to prevent unnecessary trouble, it is not my intention again to offer myself a candidate for the office; as I find I cannot attend properly to the duties of it without much inconvenience.

I take this opportunity to thank you, and all the members of the Council, for the kindness which I have always experienced whilst amongst you. I remain, dear Sir, very truly yours,

William Kell, Esq. JOHN BARRAS.

The Council proceeded to the election of three Aldermen in the room of Aldermen Barras, Brockett, and Davis, whose term of office had expired. Each member of the Council handed a voting-paper to the Mayor; and when the votes were cast up, it was found that—

Mr. W. H. Brockett had	17
Mr. Robert Davis	17
Mr. William Kenmir	17
Mr. Charles Bertram	1
Mr. Joseph Robson	1

For Messrs. Brockett, Davis, and Kenmir.—Aldermen Pollock and Wilson; and Councillors Bertram, Cook, Wilson, Garbutt, Pearson, Lister (senior and junior), Smith, Revely, Robson (Joseph), Robson (John), Edward, Kenmir, and Potts.

For Messrs. Brockett and Davis.—Councillor Hymers

For Messrs. Bertram, Kenmir, and Joseph Robson.—Councillor Wylam.

The MAYOR declared that Messrs. Brockett, Davis, and Kenmir, were duly elected.

Mr. Ald. BROCKETT rose and said, that he esteemed as a high compliment his reëlection to the office of Alderman under almost unanimous circumstances. There was one fact connected with his reëlection which he could not pass over in silence. Although he was already to meet opposition in the prosecution of what he thought to be a good cause, he was still more ready to meet and reciprocate good feeling and conciliatory advances; and he felt peculiarly called upon to express his satisfaction as to the votes given to him by two gentlemen on the present occasion. He had had the misfortune to differ from those gentlemen in public matters. It was with regret that he did so; but while acting with the independence becoming an Englishman, he hoped that he had also always manifested the courtesy that was due to honourable opponents, and to those feelings which should prevail between neighbour and neighbour. (Applause.)

Mr. Ald. DAVIS concurred in the sentiments of Mr. Ald. Brockett, and hoped that all animosity would henceforth cease. (Applause.)

Mr. Ald. KENMIR also briefly acknowledged the honour bestowed upon him.

Mr. Ald. Pollock was chosen Alderman of the West Ward, Mr. Ald. Wilson of the South Ward, and Mr. Ald. Brockett of the East Ward, for election-purposes.

The 5th of February, 7th of May, and 6th of August, were fixed upon as quarterly meeting days in 1845.

Mr. Ald. POLLOCK rose to move the following resolution:—

"That the cordial thanks of this Council are due, and are hereby voted, to John Barras, Esq., for the manner in which, for the last nine years, he has performed his duty as a member of this Council; and that the sincere wishes of the Council for the health and happiness of Mr. Barras be conveyed to him at the same time."

Mr. Ald. BROCKETT, Mr. REVELY, and other members of the Council, simultaneously seconded the motion, and it was passed by acclamation.

Notice was given by Mr. Ald. BROCKETT, of his intention to move, at the next meeting, the adoption of a petition for the emancipation of the Jews from their civil disabilities; and routine business having been transacted (including the confirmation of a Report, presented by Mr. BERTRAM, on the subject of the new townhall,) the meeting was adjourned to the 20th inst.

The Mayor of Gateshead (Mr. Cummins) took the oaths and his seat as a Magistrate on Tuesday, Nov. 12. The business of the police-office will be transacted, on and after Tuesday, Nov. 19, in the new townhall.

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

MR. JAMES HYMERS requests the attention of his fellow-townsmen to the following copy of an

INDICTMENT.

DURHAM, TO WIT.—The Jurors for our Lady the Queen upon their oath present, that JAMES HYMERS, late of the parish of Gateshead, in the county of Durham, yeoman, on the thirtieth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty four, with force and arms, at the parish aforesaid, in the county aforesaid, in a certain footway, being the Queen's common highway, situate and being in a certain street there, called the High-street, and which said footway and highway is used for all the liege subjects of our said Lady the Queen, to go, return, pass, repass, and labour at their free will and pleasure, unlawfully and injuriously did dig and make, and cause to be dug and made, a certain pit and quarry, containing in length fifty feet, and in breadth forty feet, and in depth fifteen feet, and the same pit and quarry, so as aforesaid dug and made, and caused to be dug and made, in the footway and highway aforesaid, from the day and year aforesaid, until the day of the taking of this inquisition, with force and arms, at the parish aforesaid, in the county aforesaid, unlawfully and injuriously did continue, and still doth continue, by reason whereof the Queen's subjects, during the time aforesaid, could not go, return, pass, repass, and labour, in, by, upon, and along the same footway and highway, as they were wont and ought to do, without great peril and danger of their lives, to the great damage and common nuisance of all the liege subjects of our said Lady the Queen, in, by, upon, and along the same footway and highway, going, returning, passing, repassing, and labouring, to the evil example of all others in the like case offending, and against the Peace of our said Lady the Queen, her crown and dignity.

2, 3, and 4. [The second, third, and fourth counts in the indictment, are a copy of the first, with the exception that the description of the footpath is varied. The second count describes it as the property of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses; and the third, as the property of the Street Act Commissioners.]

5. And the Jurors aforesaid, upon their oath aforesaid, do further present, that the said James Hymers, on the said thirtieth day of August, in the said year one thousand eight hundred and forty-four, with force and arms, at the parish aforesaid, in the county aforesaid, in a certain street there, called High-street, being the Queen's common highway, used for all the liege subjects of our said Lady the Queen, with their horses, coaches, carts, and carriages, to go, return, pass, repass, ride, and labour at their free will and pleasure, unlawfully and injuriously did put, place, and lay divers large quantities of stones, bricks, wood, lime, and rubbish, (to wit, two hundred cart-loads of stones, two hundred cart-loads of bricks, two hundred cart-loads of wood, two hundred cart-loads of lime, and two hundred cart-loads of rubbish,) and the same stones, bricks, wood, lime, and rubbish, so as aforesaid put, placed, and laid in the street and highway last aforesaid, from the day and year aforesaid, until the day of the taking of this inquisition, at the parish aforesaid, in the county aforesaid, unlawfully and injuriously did continue, and still doth continue, by reason whereof the Queen's common highway last aforesaid there, and for and during all the time aforesaid, was obstructed, straightened, and incumbered, so that the liege subjects of our said Lady the Queen could not there, and for and during all the time aforesaid, go, return, pass, repass, ride, and labour, with their horses, coaches, carts, and other carriages, in, through, and along the Queen's common highway last aforesaid, as they ought and were wont and accustomed to do, to the great damage and common nuisance of all Her Majesty's liege subjects, going, returning, passing, repassing, riding, and labouring, in, through, and along the common highway last aforesaid, to the evil example of all others in the like case offending, and against the peace of our said Lady the Queen, her crown and dignity.

KELL. WHARTON.

For a Nuisance.—A true Bill.

Witnesses:—

JOHN BELL,
WILLIAM HENRY SCHOREY, } Sworn.
GEORGE BRUCE,

Digitized by Google

TEMPERANCE THERMOMETER.

(From a Contribution to the *London Medical Gazette*, by Dr. C. F. H. Marx.)

Degrees			
		TEMPERANCE.	
70	Water.	Health, Wealth,	
60	Milk and Water	Serenity of Mind, Reputation, Long Life, and	
50	Small Beer.	Happiness.	
40	Cider and Perry	Cheerfulness,	
30	Wine.	Strength, and	
20	Porter.	Nourishment, when taken only at Meals,	
10	Strong Beer.	and in moderate quantities.	
0		INTEMPERANCE.	
		VICES.	DISEASES.	PENALTIES.
10	Punch.	Idleness.	Sickness, Puking, and	Debt.
20	Toddy and Crank.	Peevishness.	Tremors of the Hands in the Morning.	Black Eyes.
30	Grog: Brandy and Water.	Quarreling.	Bloatedness.	Rags.
40	Flip and Shrub	Fighting. Lying.	Red Nose and Face. Sore and Swelled Legs	Hunger.
50	Bitters in Spirits: Hysteric Water	Swearing. Obscenity. Swindling Perjury.	Jaundice. Dropsy. Melancholy. Madness.	Hospital. Poorhouse. Gaol. Whipping.
60	Gin, Rum, and Whisky, in the Morning.	Burglary.	Palsy.	Botany Bay.
70	Dittoduring the Day and Night	Murder. Suicide.	Apoplexy. Death.	Gallows.

THE GATESHEAD FREE-TRADE SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TYNE MERCURY.

Sir,—I feel that it is due to myself not to allow the editorial notes of the *Gateshead Observer* upon the late Free Trade meeting, to pass without some observations.

1. It is quite true that I declined to coöperate with those who were not prepared to make the representation of Gateshead by a man who would entirely abolish the corn laws, and all protective duties, the object of the Free Trade Society. Let those who complain say for what other object we should continue to meet. To spread our principles? That is done. We must obviously either be silent, or endeavour to carry them out. I see it stated in the report, that I said we must consider ourselves defeated if Mr. Hutt were reëlected. I mean, as a fixed duty man. I repeat that, if Gateshead remains a fixed-duty borough, we must consider ourselves defeated; and I ask, if it be not to avert this, for what rational purpose can we continue to meet?

2. It is said that I put an ungenerous gloss upon the conduct of Mr. Hutt, in saying that he longs for a fixed duty. I simply mean that he would choose it in preference to total repeal—that he looks to that as his end. I would vote for a fixed duty in preference to the sliding scale; and I am sure that the League would be found supporting the fixed duty when brought forward by a government that could carry it; but they would still bring forward their motion for the total repeal. Let our hon. member only say that he never intends deserting Mr. Villiers—that he will continue to give him his support—and our controversy is at an end. Till then, we can only, in truth, consider him as one anxious to retain a part of the bread-monopoly.

3. The *Gateshead Observer* agrees with me in condemning a fixed duty, and does not, like our hon. member, attempt to justify it on the ground of revenue. It is, however, contended that there is no more injustice in taxing imported corn than imported tea, sugar, and coffee. I am reported as having said that the duties on those articles at present went almost entirely to revenue. I said no such thing. I am not so ignorant as to be unaware of the existence of differential duties, which it is one of the main objects of the League to abolish. I said that a revenue might properly be raised by taxing imported articles not produced at home, provided they were taxed equally, without considering what countries they came from, because the produce of such taxes would all go to revenue; but that it was impossible to tax foreign corn without at the same time raising the price of English corn, and that consequently the maintenance of any duty on foreign corn was utterly inconsistent with renunciation of the principle of protection.

4. This is all that relates to myself, except a compliment to my honesty, coupled with a doubt as to my wisdom, and a hint that I am somewhat uncharitable. Truth, sir, I believe is wisdom; and it is a spurious charity that is ever in opposition to truth.

The *Gateshead Observer*, which I look upon as representing the seceders, expressed perfect satisfaction with the conduct of our hon. member on the corn law question. I and others could not feel that, and we therefore declined to act with those who said they did. They are contented. We are not. That is our ground of difference. I have never impeached their motives; but as I would not censure without strong reason, so neither would I praise. Whenever I feel any admiration for their conduct I will not be slow to express it.

I must allude to one subject more. Colonel Thompson was mentioned at the meeting. I could not allow his name to be mentioned without expressing the deep respect I have for him, and my opinion that he ought to be in parliament. His is an instance of generous self-devotion rare indeed, and hitherto unrequited. He has sacrificed wealth and position in society to what he believed was for the public good. His abilities as a political economist are of the first order. He may be called the Father of Corn-Law Repeal. His services on this question are so incalculable, that I think those who have it at heart should support him, even if they differed with him upon other points. I own that when I think of his age and services, I am much affected at the thought that he should not be placed in the house for the remainder of his days.

But, on the other hand, I must say that Mr. Cook was mistaken in supposing that I intended to give any pledge about bringing him forward—and I should have said so at once. He will, I am sure, have the good sense to see that I could not, if I would, pledge the Society to any course without consulting them. We must ascertain our strength, and be guided by circumstances. I do not anticipate any sudden success. Many of the electors who, I am persuaded, would stand by us at a pinch, may be disposed to wait before taking any decisive steps. Our reliance is upon the truth and justice of ourea use; and if we only work hard enough, and have enoughpati ence, we mus succeed in the end. I am, Sir, your obedientS ervant,

George Crawshay.

[We transfer this letter to our columns, not for purposes of comment, but that our readers, having seen our remarks of last

Digitized by Google

week, may also see Mr. Crawshay's reply. We may briefly observe, however, *first*, that Mr. Hutt, in his speech at the dinner, nowhere said "he would choose a fixed-duty in preference to total repeal—that he looked to that as his end," but quite the contrary; *secondly*, that if "the League would be found supporting a fixed duty, when brought forward by a government that could carry it, but would still bring forward their motion for total repeal," then the League would just follow the policy which we, and the "discarded" members of the Free Trade Society, are proscribed for advocating; *thirdly*, that we never mentioned "tea"—which may serve as a set-off for the error stated to have been committed in our report, but which error does not invalidate our reasoning—for coffee and sugar notoriously yield a revenue to monopolists at the expense of the consumer; and, *fourthly*, that Mr. Crawshay was certainly incorrectly interpreted by Mr. Cook—the former gentleman having pledged the Free Trade Society to nothing more than a canvass on the point at issue between the Society and the seceders.—ED. G.O.]

THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GATESHEAD OBSERVER.

SIR,—Will you be kind enough to allow me, through the medium of your extensively-circulated paper, to make public my intention of moving, at the next anniversary meeting of the Gateshead Mechanics' Institute, for a Committee to report upon the best means of extending its usefulness. The basis of my plan is the combination of the institution with the New Public Rooms that I hear are proposed to be erected adjoining the New Townhall.

I shall say no more at present, as the support of the public will depend upon their opinion of the Report of the Committee.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

Gateshead, Nov. 19, 1844. GEORGE CRAWSHAY.

THE WINDMILL-HILLS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GATESHEAD OBSERVER.

SIR,—I intended to have proposed the following resolution at the meeting of Boroughholders on Thursday last, but, owing to a misunderstanding on my part, which it is unnecessary to allude to, I refrained from doing so. My opinions relative to the Borough Property remain unchanged; but owing to the judicious manifestation of feeling by the inhabitants in public meeting assembled, I am willing to forego my private right, to meet the views of my fellow-townsmen.

Your insertion will oblige your obedient Servant,

GEORGE WATSON,
One of the Stewards.

Bottle-bank, Gateshead, Nov. 22, 1844.

Resolved,—That we, the Boroughholders and Freemen of Gateshead, anxious for the recreation and happiness of the people, beg to state, in reply to the resolutions agreed to by the inhabitants, in public meeting assembled, on the evening of the 14th of September, that we are quite willing, and are now ready, to present the Windmill Hills, including the fields adjoining Hood's property, for the purposes mentioned in the resolution alluded to, provided that the inhabitants assist in legally securing, by Act of Parliament, to ourselves and our heirs for ever, all the other land and property, together with all the rights, privileges, and immunities now exercised and enjoyed by us; also four sites at the ends of Millfield-place, and the property occupied at present by Messrs. Wardman, Potts, and others.

THE GATESHEAD TOWN COUNCIL.

p THOMAS CUMMINS, Esq., Mayor.

ALDERMEN.	COUNCILLORS.		
		Hymers, J.	p Robson, John
p Brockett, W. H.	Bertram, C.	Kent, Samuel	p Robson, Joe.
p Davis, Robert	p Cook, W.	Lister, J., sen.	p Smith, James
p Kenmir, W.	p Edward, J.	p Lister, J., jun.	p Revely, T.
p Pollock, James	p Garbutt, C.	p Pearson, C. J.	p Wilson, J. R.
Sowerby, G.	p Glenton, F.	p Potts, John	Wylam, Ralph
p Wilson, Thos.			

[Those marked p were present.]

THE Council met on Wednesday, the 20th of Nov., in the new townhall, (the house formerly occupied by E. Graham, Esq., near the new railway-station).

The TOWN CLERK read the minutes, and also a list of the attendances of members at meetings of the Council and Committees, held during the last year, (as advertised in the *Observer* of the 5th ult.)

Mr. J. R. WILSON gave notice of a motion to rescind the rule requiring members to be in attendance at Council meetings within a quarter of an hour of the appointed time, in order to their being recorded as present in the published list.

Mr. REVELY presented a Report from the Town Improvement Committee—which led to the following among other resolutions, viz.:—

1. That Mr. William Sharp, of Westgate-street, Newcastle, be accepted as contractor for the mason-work of the proposed sewer from East Bailey-chare to Cannon-street, (his tender being the lowest, viz., 10s. 6d. per running yard).

2. That the letter of Mr. Walker, on the subject of his application to the Council to bear part of the expense of flagging the path in front of Walker-terrace, be considered by the Committee, and reported upon at the next meeting.

3. That the flagging in Easton-street be restored.

4. That the proceedings in regard to the indictment against Mr. James Hymers go forward. [An attempt, originated by Mr. COOK, to bring about an arrangement, was not successful. Concession, it was argued, should be proposed by Mr. Hymers—not by the Council.]

A Report from the Watch Committee was read. It contained nothing of interest.

Mr. Ald. POLLOCK presented a Report from the Finance Committee—which, like an epigram, had a "sting in its tail;" for it recommended that a borough-rate of a penny in the pound be laid.—Confirmed.

The MAYOR withdrew his motion respecting the clock of St. Mary's church. An attempt, he said, was now in progress, to get rid of the old debt; and at present, therefore, it would not be politic to commence a subscription for a clock.

The various Standing Committees for the ensuing year were appointed.

The resolutions of the public meeting, held in the National School on the subject of the Windmill-hills, were laid before the Council by the TOWN CLERK, to whom the Committee had communicated them.

It was thought desirable to postpone the consideration of them, until after the meeting of the Boroughholders, on the following day (Nov. 21).

Mr. REVELY also deemed it right to defer his motion in respect to the hills.

Mr. Ald. BROCKETT brought forward his motion for the adoption of a petition in favour of the Jews. At that late hour, he said, he would not detain the Council with any arguments in support of the motion. The proposed petition, indeed, was so obviously just, that the mere reading of it would be sufficient to insure its adoption. It was as follows:—

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Gateshead, in Council assembled.

Humbly sheweth,—That disqualifications for civil offices, on account of religious opinions, are not only at variance with the spirit of the British Constitution, but discreditable to the age in which we live.

That your petitioners consider that the obstacles at present presented by law to the admission of persons professing the Jewish religion to municipal offices, whilst to the office of High Sheriff or Justice of the Peace no such obstacle exists, ought to be immediately repealed.

Your petitioners therefore pray that your Honourable House will be pleased immediately to abolish all declarations or oaths which interfere, in any degree, with the religious opinions of individuals, and thereby preclude the conscientious from taking upon themselves certain corporate offices to which they may be elected by the suffrages of their fellow-countrymen.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Mr. REVELY and Mr. J. R. WILSON rose to second the motion, and it was unanimously passed.

It was then resolved, on the motion of Mr. Ald. BROCKETT, seconded by Mr. Ald. KENMIR, that Lord Ravensworth be requested to present the petition to the House of Lords, and Mr. Hutt to the House of Commons.

Some further business having been disposed of, merely routine, and the meeting having been adjourned to the 11th of December, the MAYOR invited his colleagues, at the close of their somewhat dry debates, to join him in a glass of wine, in celebration of the opening of the new townhall. This invitation, we need hardly say, was as frankly accepted as it was given; and in a few moments the Town Clerk's books and papers were dismissed, and "the glasses sparkled on the board."

YANKEE ELECTIONEERING.

THE Americans are indeed a funny sort of people. Among the many droll squibs arising out of the present contest for the

Digitized by Google

office of president, a newspaper opposed to Mr. Clay, the duellist and gambler, gives an engraving of his coat of arms, inscribed "Shoot Lower!" and "War, Pestilence, and Famine!" At one corner, are four or five playing cards: at another, a cocked pistol. At the head he is represented firing at an antagonist—who has a brandy bottle in his centre. Then comes "THE EMBODIMENT."

"HENRY
CLAY, the liv-
ing personification
and embodyment of
Whig Principles."
Whig Address.
In 1777,
born. In
1805, quarrelled
With Col. Davis, of Ken-
tucky, which led to his first duel.
In 1808 he challenged Humphrey Mar-
shall, and fired three times at his heart.
In 1825 he challenged the great Jo hn
Ran dolph, and fired once at his he art,
but without effect. In 1838 he plan ned
the CHILLEY DUEL, by wh ich
A MURDER was perpe tra-
ted, and a wife made a ma-
ni ac. In 1841, wh en
65 years old, and gr ey-
hea ded, is under 5,000 dol-
lars BONDS to KEEP t he
P EACE! At the age of 29
h e PERJURED himself t o
s cure a Seat in the Unite d
S tates Senate. In 1824 he mad e
an infamous bargain with John Quin cy
Adams, by which he SOLD OUT
for a £1,200 a-year OFFICE. He
is also well kn own as a GAM-
BLER, and SA BBATH BREA-
KER. His P OLITICS
are precisely and exactly
those of the Hartford con-
vention Fe deralist: op-
posed to e qual rights,
equal laws;
and in favour
of mono polizing
laws and
char tered
priv ile-
ges. Also
he sus-
tai ns
the fa-
rool ous
Alge rines
in their deeds of
BLOOD AND MURDER.

GATESHEAD FREE TRADE SOCIETY.—On Wednesday, Nov. 20, a meeting was held at Miss Murray's, the Half-Moon inn, "for the purpose of electing a canvassing committee, and making the necessary arrangements, previously to the taking of the opinion of the electors on the question of Free Trade." The chair was occupied by Mr. Crawshay. There was a spirited discussion of the policy recently adopted by the Society; which ended in the secession of Mr. John Fawcett, and one or two other members, who had not thought it incumbent upon them to retire on the 28th ult., but now felt that they could no longer consistently remain. After this second rupture, the Society proceeded with the business of the evening, and finally postponed, until the next meeting, the adoption of a declaration to test the electors generally, and ascertain whether they concur with the seceders or with the other party.

THE WINDMILL HILLS.—The Boroughholders and Freemen of Gateshead assembled in special meeting, in the Anchorage, on Thursday, Nov. 21, to consider the resolutions of the recent public meeting of the inhabitants, respecting the appropriation of the Windmill-hills as a place of recreation Mr. N. Andrews was in the chair; and about 28 gentlemen were present. The resolutions of the public meeting having been read, Mr. John Lister, jun., made a motion tantamount to the concession of a *portion* of the hills. Mr. Hind moved, as an amendment, that no part of the hills be given up, but that the public [who now have the use of them for nothing] be allowed the use of them at an annual rental! Three hands were held up for the amendment—viz., those of Capt. Trotter and Messrs. Hind.—Mr. Cummins, the Mayor, addressed the meeting, strongly recommending his brother Boroughholders, both for their own advantage and that of the public, to give up the *whole* of the hills; and moved an amendment to that effect—which was seconded by Mr. C. J. Pearson. But the mover and the seconder, and Mr. Ald. Kenmir, were the only Boroughholders who voted in its favour. The original motion was carried, and a committee appointed, to confer with the committee of the inhabitants, viz., the Stewards (Messrs. Watson and Andrews), and Messrs. Kenmir, Price, Lister (sen. and jun.), Walker, Glaholm, and Hobson. The meeting then broke up.

THE JOURNAL AND THE MAYOR.—From the time that Mr. Alderman Potter was first named as the probable Mayor of Newcastle, he has been the object of bitter and personal remark in the *Journal*. No notice was taken of its animadversions, either by the gentleman concerned or by the other newspapers of the district; and on Saturday, Nov. 16, emboldened by impunity, our contemporary crossed the threshold of the newly-elected Mayor, and forced himself into the sanctuary of his home. Accordingly, on Wednesday morning, Nov. 20, (as elsewhere referred to in our journal,) Mr. Addison Potter, jun., the Mayor's son, (who had for some days been on the look-out,) stopped Mr. Hernaman, the proprietor of the *Journal*, at the Barras-bridge, on his way from home to the office, and, pointing to the "leading article" headed "Election of Mayor and Sheriff," demanded the name of the writer of so offensive a production. Mr. Hernaman replied that the street was not the proper place in which to make such inquiries. Mr. Potter then introduced himself by name, and reiterated his demand; but still without avail. He therefore collared Mr. Hernaman, and horsewhipped him without stint; until, after passively looking on for some time, the bystanders (moved by his piteous cries for protection) interfered, and the castigation was brought to a close. The parties were separated—Mr. Potter proceeding to the business of the day, and Mr. Hernaman hieing to his attorney. As the result of the consultation, Mr. Potter has been served with a notice of indictment; and a public subscription has been made for his defence. Although legally the assault cannot be justified, it must have produced infinitely less pain to the body of Mr. Hernaman, than his article inflicted on the minds of his victims. Even his own party bestow little sympathy upon him, whatever they may think of some of the late proceedings of the town-council; and his political opponents, however much they may occasionally differ among themselves on municipal matters, do not conceal their satisfaction at his mortification. It was thought that, warned by his former fate when treading on ground always *tabooed* to a newspaper, he would not again have run the risk of personal chastisement; but when the sex of his Sovereign, even, did not protect her from the ribaldry of the *Journal*, it was hardly to be expected that he should be more merciful and forbearing to a subject.

THE BEGGING-LETTER SYSTEM. — On Tuesday evening, Nov. 19, a petition was left at the house of Mr. Ald. Wilson, Gateshead Low Fell, the bearer stating that he would call again in about half-an-hour. The girl handed the petition to her master, and was asked what kind of man the petitioner was. She replied, "O, Sir, I know the man well: it was James Sinclair." The petition, however, was signed "Edward Wilson." She was instructed to show Sinclair into a room, if he should call again; and in a short time she announced that he had returned. Mr. Wilson went down to him—followed, in a few minutes, by Mr. Ald. Brockett. When the latter gentleman entered the room, Mr. Sinclair seemed disconcerted; and being called upon to explain why he was begging under the name of "Edward Wilson," he stated that he had simply undertaken to call on that person's behalf. He was asked if he could produce "Edward Wilson," and replied that he believed he could—for he was waiting outside. He was requested to do so. But when, after half an-hour's absence, he returned to Fell House, he was still alone: he had not been able, he said, to find "Edward Wilson." Mr. Brockett then exacted from him a promise to attend at the Gateshead justice-room on the following Friday, and produce "Edward Wilson." Sinclair inquired, at first, if it would not suffice to send "Edward Wilson" alone. Mr. Brockett replied that it would not: he must come himself, or a warrant would be issued for his

Digitized by Google

apprehension—for he very much suspected the names to the petition to be forged, in like manner with those appended to the petition of "John Thomson," who had attempted to defraud Mrs. Bewicke, of Close House, about a year ago, and whose case had been made public at the time. He must therefore attend the police-office in person.—But on Friday (Nov. 22) Sinclair did not appear. On Tuesday, Nov. 26, witnesses will be examined, and other steps taken. Many of the signatures to the petition, it has been ascertained by Mr. Brockett, are forgeries—and very skillfully they are executed. We learn, also, that a letter in the same handwriting as "Edward Wilson's," but bearing a different signature, was sent to Mr. Ald. Carr, of Newcastle, a short time ago, accompanied by a petition having several forged signatures attached. The letter of "John Thomson," too, is written by the same hand that penned "Edward Wilson's." We have hinted above, that Sinclair was suspected at the time of being implicated in "John Thomson's" attempt to defraud Mrs. Bewick. The suspicion arose out of the following circumstances:—The Newcastle and Gateshead Charter Association passed a resolution on the 28th of December, 1843, having reference to the proceedings of the last annual meeting of the Gateshead Mechanics' Institute; and Mr. Sinclair, the Secretary, sent a copy of the resolution to the Committee, in a letter bearing his signature. About the same time—(if we remember right, on the same day)—an agent of Mrs. Bewicke's called at the *Observer* office with the letter and petition of "John Thomson," to inquire if certain Gateshead signatures weregenuine. He was informed that the imitation was excellent, but that the names were forged. It was afterwards found that many others of the signatures attached to the petition were spurious. *The* LETTER *was palpably written by the same hand that had penned James Sinclair's!* and it is a remarkable circumstance, that "John Thomson," in writing his signature, had first written "James S," and afterwards partially erased the characters, and substituted "John Thomson." We thought it possible, however, that Sinclair might not have written his letter to the Mechanics' Institute himself; that he might have employed as an amanuensis the person who wrote "John Thomson's" letter; and that he might be innocent of any participation in the attempted fraud on Mrs. Bewicke. But now that he has been caught in the act of hawking a fraudulent petition of the same kind, it is due to the public that we should no longer remain silent, but warn them against his malpractices. The letter bearing his own signature, and the letters of "John Thomson" and "Edward Wilson," with the two petitions, are in our possession, and may be seen at our office on or after Wednesday, Nov. 27. The writer of the signatures to the petitions is evidently a most accomplished and dangerous knave.

THE NEWCASTLE JOURNAL.

Mr. John Hernaman, of Newcastle, we understand, was horsewhipped in a public street of that town, on Wednesday last, by a young man whose parents and family have been exposed, for several weeks past, to a series of disgusting and malignant invasions of their domestic privacy, in the *Newcastle Journal*. The affair, of course, is the topic of general conversation—and it may probably, hereafter, be subjected to the decision of a legal tribunal. We trust, however, that our contemporary, if he should feel himself entitled to ask for redress at law, will afford the jury an opportunity of pronouncing an opinion, not only on the bare question of assault, but on the far more important one, to wit, the extent of reparation to which the assaulted party is entitled. If this course be resorted to, our contemporary will evince a degree of courage at once creditable to him and astonishing to the public. He may plead, of course, now, as he did on a former occasion, that a labourer is entitled to protection in his vocation—and that what he has said and published has all been done "in the way of business." There is no question, whatever may have been the case in his former interference with private character, that in the present instance he has been labouring, and most industriously so, in his vocation; and an English jury, as the protectors of their countrymen—and of their countrywomen too—from the attacks of their enemies, will mete out to our castigated contemporary an ample pecuniary plaster for both his wounded skin and his wounded spirit. Looking at the "long range," however, which the *Journal* has exercised since its conductor's personal chastisement in 1833—a period of eleven long years—many persons, we fear, will express their astonishment much more at the patience of his victims than at the frequency of his fustigations. There are cases, he should remember, in which the laws of nature prove more powerful than the laws of man, and that of all the influences of which the human mind is susceptible, the attachment of child to parent is happily the most powerful and inextinguishable. It is a matter of universal regret, and very naturally so, in connection with the present case, that the establishers and encouragers—the patrons and employers—of the *Journal*, should escape the punishment of their misdeeds at the expense of their hireling. These masked and malignant calumniators, however, should reflect, that the patience even of their utensil may be exhausted—and that those who, for hire, can invade the sanctity of the domestic hearth, have not always proved the safest custodiers of the secrets of those that hire them.

WORKMEN'S STRIKES:—AFTER-WIT.

When we warned the pitmen, early in the present year, against the madness of a "strike," we (and those who gave the same advice) were set down as enemies of the colliers and allies of the coalowners. But now, *after* the "strike," their own organ is deriding the folly of such a proceeding!

"Strikes," says the *Northern Star*, "have hitherto been fruitless for permanent good. It is only about once in ten times that they effect even the appearance of immediate benefit."

True! but is it not a pity that the caution was not given a few months ago?

"For one strike that succeeds," adds the *Star*, "even after the expenditure of immense sums of money, and the heroic braving of suffering and sheer starvation, there are ten that are utterly defeated. And when we calculate the cost of success—the cost in money, in exertion, in labour, in want, in misery, and in privation—when we calculate all these—the price paid for victory—in nine cases out of ten the trades find that they have gained a loss."

True! all true! but what a pity that the "money, exertion, labour, want, misery, and privation," resulting, not in "victory," but in defeat, were not all spared to the pitmen, by the utterance of these truths a few months ago?

"The main cause of the failure of strikes (we again quote the *Northern Star*) is the superabundance of labourers in the labour-market. In all departments this is the case. Whenever one set of men 'turn out,' either against reduction or for advance, there is another set ready to take their places. Witness the recent colliery-strike in the North, and the present carpenters' strike in Manchester."

Aye! witness the "colliery-strike," indeed! But what a pity, we repeat, that all this good advice should have been deferred until now! while those who offered it before, when it might have been of service, were vilified as mercenary enemies of the Durham and Northumberland colliers! The journal which mocks them with its after-wit might have informed them—perhaps it has—that not only must failure attend a strike when labour is superabundant, but that, when labour is *not* superabundant, strikes are superfluous—or must, at least, be very short in their duration. Witness the present condition of the manufacturing districts! There, the hands are all employed, and wages have risen, in most cases, without strikes; and where strikes have occurred, their object has been attained almost instantly. Working men are now learning from experience—(a better teacher than either ourselves or the *Star*)—that wages are neither regulated by themselves nor their employers, but by circumstances over which they have little or no control.

We recal the word. Much of the comparative prosperity which we are now enjoying, arises from the virtual repeal of the laws which regulate the importation of corn; and workmen and employers, if they were wise, would combine to control the Legislature, and procure the removal of those injurious laws from the statute-book.

Digitized by Google

PECKSNIFF AND HIS PROTEGE.

PROTEGE.

ALACK! alack! I cannot bear
To contemplate this sad affair!
A youngster, savage as a Tartar,
Has flogg'd me like a Quayside carter.
He hit me low, he hit me high:
I cannot sit, I scarce dare *lie*.
They tell me I must call him out;
But then he'd shoot me, I've no doubt.

PECKSNIFF (IN ALARM).

You did not tell him, did you, pray?
His hands on me he ought to lay;
That your friend Pecksniff was the sneak
Whose nose he properly should tweak?

PROTEGE.

You owe me much: you're saved from harm:
So, in return, lend me your arm.
I need your count'nance in the street,
For I'm quite shunn'd by those I meet.

PECKSNIFF.

Forgive me, friend, if I refuse:
You know I have a name to lose.
You've been exposed, and oft chastised:
I'm yet unwhipp'd, and still disguised.

PROTEGE.

I tell you what—we're in one boat;
And if again I'm your scape goat,
However grievous your alarm,
This day shall see us arm in arm.

PECKSNIFF.

Well, well! I pity your affliction,
And will submit to the infliction:
I'll be consoled—the ills I feel
All spring from pure religious zeal.

PROTEGE.

Pooh! pooh! you know, when we're alone,
There's no occasion for this tone:
You're worse than I, who only vend
The insidious poison which you send.

MR. HERNAMAN—AND HIS "FRIENDS."

A CARD.

MR. JOHN HERNAMAN, the "sole proprietor" of the *Newcastle Journal*, feels called upon to return thanks for the condolences which pour in upon him from every quarter—and for the forbearance, as well as assistance and sympathy, which have been kindly extended to him by both friend and foe.

To Mr. Addison Potter, "the eldest son of Mr. Alderman-Justice-Addison-Langhorne Potter, Mayor of Newcastle-upon-Tyne," Mr. Hernaman's particular thanks are due, and are hereby tendered, inasmuch as the aforesaid Mr. Addison Potter, being "a tall, powerful man, whom Mr. Hernaman cannot describe better than, in common phraseology, as one who does not know his own strength," was kind enough to refrain from obtaining (as he might have done) full and accurate information as to the extent of "his own strength," by experiment on the back of Mr. Hernaman.

To the "parties of deeper cunning, but of equal recklessness and brutality," by whom the "supposed provocation" of Mr. Addison Potter was concocted, Mr. Hernaman acknowledges the receipt of prompt and ample promises of both present and prospective plaster.

To the manufacturer who supplied Mr. Potter with his "suitable weapon," Mr. Hernaman feels that gratitude is also due, inasmuch as, had the aforesaid "weapon" been the "shaft of a huntsman's whip of large dimensions," and wielded by a person who not only was "smarting under the influence of some supposed provocation," but who, besides, "did not know his own strength," the consequence might have been, (had "no humane person interfered,") that Mr Hernaman, instead of proceeding to "his place of business," might have been driven to the "necessity of relinquishing his intention of proceeding further in the direction he was going, and of returning home in a crippled state."

To the gentleman who "humanely interfered" between Mr. Hernaman and Mr. Potter, and who, with more than Samaritan humanity, received certain blows which rendered it necessary that *he* should "relinquish his intention of proceeding further in the direction *he* was going, and return home in a crippled state," no words can express the extent of Mr. Hernaman's obligations.

To his two valued friends and yarn-makers, whose consolatory counsels are so well calculated to soothe the consequences of their contributions, it would be ingratitude, indeed, in Mr. Hernaman, were he to withhold his sincerest acknowledgments.

To his legal adviser Mr. Hernaman feels he cannot be too thankful; that gentleman having, with his proverbial acuteness, discovered that Mr. Hernaman's chance at law consists quite as much in the concealment of his character, as in the exposure of his wounds, during his "appeal for redress to the judges of the land."

But, at the same time, to the Tory Magistrates of Newcastle, to whom Mr. Hernaman, eleven years ago, appealed for protection from the whips of his Sunderland assailants, some apology, he considers, is due. On *this* occasion Mr. H. waits for the assizes—on *that* he proceeded to the police-office. *Then*, the Magistrates were Tories—*now*, a small majority of them are Whigs. Mr. Hernaman is ready to admit that suspicion must attach to his conduct, either in the present or the former case—and that, therefore, the Municipal Magnates of 1833 may be somewhat offended. But however *they* may feel, Mr. Hernaman humbly submits that neither their consistency nor his own can be justly questioned. Eleven years ago, he appealed to a Tory Bench of Justices and to a Tory Recorder for redress—and he obtained it; and if, by his adoption of a contrary course on the present occasion, he permits suspicion to attach to the Tory predecessors of the present Magistrates and Recorder of Newcastle, he hopes the former functionaries will remember that his character is his stock in trade, and that an Englishman has "a right to do what he will with his own."

Mr. Hernaman trusts, also, that his friends will be "charitable enough" to consider, that he is but "the mere tool of a party"—a tool, too, that has been "taught in the school of bitter experience" that his vocation is a dangerous one—and that he, consequently, seldom acts without advice, either in attack or in retaliation. He feels, therefore, that his advisers, not himself, are answerable to the Justices of 1833, for the suspicions which may, probably, be attached to them in 1844.

To that loyal and valiant troop, the "Noodles," he returns thanks for the address of condolence which they have presented to him by the hands of their gallant commander. To obtain the substantial support of great men having been the chief aim and object of Mr. Hernaman during an eventful and long-suffering life, the approbation of the "Noodles" has been most acceptable. Mr. Hernaman, however, being a man of peace, is compelled to decline the offer of an escort from his place of "residence" to his "place of business," which his gallant friends have so kindly made him.

Although unable to avail himself of the arms of the *military*, Mr. Hernaman, nevertheless, feels most thankful to the *civil* authority whose arm was kindly extended to him on the day of his disaster—one of those occasions when it may with truth be said, that "a friend in need is a friend in *deed*." So valuable a recognition from so high a quarter is as estimable to Mr. Hernaman as it has been conclusive with the public.

To the officers of the Infirmary, too, Mr. Hernaman has to express his deep regret that a malignant rumour should have been set afloat that he was refused admission into that institution, for the purpose of having his wounds dressed, at the earnest request of the in-door patients. Mr. Hernaman is happy to express his belief that no such mutinous suggestion was ever thought of by the patients; and that, had it even been made, it would have been indignantly disregarded by the meritorious officers of the Infirmary.

To his Sunderland correspondent, "Judas," Mr. Hernaman, in conclusion, presents his thanks, although declining his advice. Should the suggested expedient, however, be resorted to, Mr. Hernaman begs to say that "rope enough" can be had, for a word, from more than one valued friend of the *Journal*—and in the town, too, in which it is published.

Grey-street, Newcastle, Nov. 28, 1844.

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

NOTICE is hereby given, that on the fourteenth day of November instant FREDERICK GLENTON, of Bensham, Spirit Merchant, was DULY ELECTED a COUNCILLOR for the WEST WARD of the Borough of Gateshead, to supply the Vacancy occasioned in the Office of Councillor of the said Ward by the appointment of Councillor

Digitized by Google

William Kenmir to the Office of Alderman. Dated this fifteenth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and forty-four. WILLIAM KELL, Town Clerk.

TO THE BURGESSES OF THE WEST WARD OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—The honour you have conferred on me, by unanimously Electing me to fill the Office of Town Councillor, has, as it deserves to have, my best Thanks. Be assured I shall not be less disposed to give my attention to your interests because of the kind way in which you have distinguished me. I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Bensham, Nov. 14, 1844. FREDERICK GLENTON.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY BALL.

THE Annual Ball for the Benefit of the Gateshead Dispensary, will be held in the Assembly Room of the Grey Horse Inn, on Thursday, the 19th of December next.

The MAYOR OF GATESHEAD,
JOSHUA GREENE, Jun., Esq., } Stewards.
HENRY BARRAS, Esq.,

Tickets, 6s. 6d. each, (Tea included,) may be obtained of the Stewards or the Secretary, and at the Bar of the Inn.

JOHN HUNTER, Hon. Sec.

☞ Music at 9 o'clock.

November 18, 1844.

STRANGE ACCIDENT AT ST. PETER'S, NEWCASTLE.—For two or three weeks past, slight cracks have been observed in houses near to Messrs. T. & W. Smith's dockyard, at St. Peter's, on the banks of the Tyne, Newcastle; and on Friday, Nov. 15, while the landlord of the Ship inn was at breakfast, several squares of glass gave way in the room. Then followed a general sinking of the earth, and a crash of houses. The dock sunk several feet. A thick wall was thrown down. The walls of houses were rent, and the inmates fled in terror. The damage done extends to several thousands of pounds, and two hundred ship-carpenters are thrown out of work. The scene may be conceived more easily than described. The Ship inn is closed up, lest it should fall to the ground. The calamity is attributed to a subsidence in the Goose pit—the shaft of which is on the Gateshead side of the Tyne, but the workings extend under the river and the town of Newcastle.

THE LATE MR. W. G. THOMPSON.—On Monday, Nov. 11, a public meeting was held in the lecture-room of the Literary and Philosophical Society, Newcastle, (John Fenwick, Esq., in the chair,) to promote a subscription for the present and permanent relief of the destitute widow and children of the late Mr. Thompson, many years reporter to the *Newcastle Chronicle*. The Chairman stated that he had recently met Mr. Granger, one of the Members for Durham, in London, and that gentleman spontaneously suggested the propriety of making some provision for the survivors of the deceased, and said he would be very happy to put his name down for £5. Mr. Fenwick said that he also would give £5; and it was intimated that the Mayor of Newcastle (A. L. Potter, Esq.) had subscribed the same sum. The proprietors of the *Chronicle*, it was stated, had defrayed the expenses of the funeral. Several sums were subscribed at the meeting, and resolutions were passed which will be found in our advertising columns. We trust that the subscription now begun will be liberally carried forward. The "widow and the fatherless" are in a state of the most painful destitution, and we call upon every newspaper-reader to contribute to their relief.

Adam Askew, Esq., the much-respected proprietor of the Redheugh estate, near this town, died at his residence in Wimpole-street, on the 21st of Nov., at the advanced age of 86. He was the grandson of the celebrated Dr. Askew, of Newcastle, who practised as a physician in that town for half a century with deserved success and reputation, and who died there in 1773, aged 78. Some years ago, Mr. Adam Askew, now also deceased, whilst residing at Redheugh, acted as a County-Magistrate for this district, and was exemplary both in his administration of justice and in his ready support of any project calculated to benefit the town and neighbourhood. The Redheugh estate formerly belonged to the Derwentwater family, and was sold by Lady Mary Radcliffe to Dr. Askew.

GATESHEAD MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—The Committee intend to follow, this year, the precedent established by the Mechanics' Institutions of neighbouring towns, and hold a tea-meeting at the anniversary. The Wesleyans have kindly granted the use of their school-room on the occasion, and (Miss Murray having engaged to provide the entertainment) no pains will be spared to make the members and their friends happy and comfortable. William Hutt, Esq., M.P., President, will take the chair at the *Soiree*. The day will be Wednesday, Dec. 18th. Mr. Crawshay, our readers are aware, will bring before the meeting a proposal to appoint a special committee, with instructions to inquire into the best means of extending the usefulness of the institution.

GATESHEAD FREE TRADE SOCIETY.—At the weekly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 26, held at Mr. Rickaby's (where the society will assemble in future), it was resolved that the conditions of membership be the signing of the following declaration, and the payment of a shilling:—

"We, the undersigned electors and inhabitants of Gateshead, hereby declare our conviction that the corn-laws ought to be entirely and immediately abolished, as well as all protective and differential duties; and we solemnly pledge our faith to one another, to work together to procure the return of a member for this borough who will pledge himself distinctly to vote for the total and immediate repeal of the corn-laws, and all protective and differential duties."

JAMES SINCLAIR, *alias* "JOHN THOMSON," *alias* "EDWARD WILSON."—At the Gateshead justice-room, on the 26th Nov., evidence was given to prove that signatures had been forged to the petition hawked about by James Sinclair, in the name of "Edward Wilson;" and a warrant was issued for his apprehension. He is, however, nowhere to be found; nor do we suppose that the detected knave will again show himself on the banks of the Tyne.

HACKNEY COACH FARES.—Mr. Newall, of Gateshead, having been imposed upon by an extortionate and insolent hackney-coachman, took the trouble to make several measurements, with a view to redress—which he failed to obtain, in consequence of a technical difficulty. His measurements, however, although of no service in this instance, may be of value in the future, and we are glad that we are enabled to publish them.

	FROM The Turf.	FROM The Theatre.	FROM Gateshead Station.
To the head of Dean-street ..... *yards*	201	257	
To the north end of the bridge	647	703	
To the south end	835	891	
To the Gateshead postoffice.....	1,142	1,198	
To the Gateshead railway-station	1,494	1,550	
To the railway-crossing, Gateshead	1,353	1,409	233
To the lower-end of Mulgrave-terrace	1,544	1,600	424
To the Bishop's well.....	1,640	1,696	520
To the old toll-gate	1,869	1,925	749
To Mr. Newall's house	2,089	2,145	969
To Union-lane	2,204	2,260	1,084
To the new toll-gate	2,292	2,348	1,172
To Mr. Wylam's gate	2,357	2,513	1,232
To the Windmill public house	2,594	2,650	1,475
To the junction of the roads	2,679	2,735	1,560
To the rectory-gate	2,860	2,915	1,739
To Mr. W. E. Brockett's gate.....	2,956	3,012	1,836
To Ravensworth-terrace (front entrance)..	3,044	3,100	1,944
To Saltwell-lane.....	3,255	3,315	2,136
To Welch the gardener's cottage	3,521	3,577	2,401
To Mr. Angus's gate, Union-lane	2,368	2,414	1,258
To Mr. G. J. Kenmir's gate	2,501	2,557	1,381
To the workhouse gate.....	2,602	2,658	1,482
To the entrance to Sedgwick-place	2,644	2,700	1,524

These are the distances. The scale of fares, taken in connection therewith, will complete the table:—

	Two Horses.	One.
1,000 yards and under	1s. 0d.	3s. 8d.
Above 1,000 and under 1,700	1s. 6d.	1s. 0d.
Above 1,700 and under 2,400	2s. 0d.	1s. 4d.
Above 2,400 and under 3,100	2s. 6d.	1s. 8d.
Above 3,100 and under 3,800	3s. 0d.	2s. 0d.

The distance from the coach-stand in St. Nicholas-square, we should state, is a hundred yards less than from the Turf Hotel.

FREE TRANSLATION.—A worthy and excellent country justice, on being asked by his son the meaning of "*De gustibus non est disputandum*," read the passage thus—"*De Justibus non est Diis putandum*," and translated it—"The gods need not trouble their heads about the justices."

Digitized by Google

DIALOGUE BETWEEN A FRENCHMAN AND A CHINAMAN.

FRENCHMAN: Pray, Mr. Chinaman, why do you permit John Bull to send his goods to you at the low *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent., when he saddles your teas with 100 per cent.?

CHINAMAN: Because we think it our interest.

FRENCHMAN: There is no reciprocity in this.

CHINAMAN: It answers our purpose; and if John Bull is a fool it is no reason why Chinaman should be so too.

FRENCHMAN: These strange notions of yours puzzle me.

CHINAMAN: There is no puzzle in it. It is quite clear, if we saddle John Bull's goods with 100 per cent. duty, they would cost us twice as much as they now do: would not that be punishing ourselves?

FRENCHMAN: I must admit this.

CHINAMAN: We have the advantage of not only buying cheaper, but are benefited in other respects too; for if at the low duty we are able to buy twice as much of his wares as we would at the high duty, he must take twice as much of our teas to pay for them, and twice the demand raises their value, which is so much the better for us, as it takes less of our property to satisfy his claims.

FRENCHMAN: But then there is protection to your manufactures. You lose sight of that.

CHINAMAN: No: we consider it very bad policy to force the labour of the people to make articles that we can buy cheaper elsewhere, and which would be better directed to make articles that we can furnish cheapest to you in exchange for those that you can furnish cheapest to us.

FRENCHMAN: But suppose other nations will not exchange with you?

CHINAMAN: It punishes all parties, as it compels us to make articles at home at a higher cost than our neighbours could furnish them at; but this is not our fault.

FRENCHMAN: It just occurs to me that John Bull may demand your gold for his goods in place of your teas.

CHINAMAN: Well, suppose he does, we get double the quantity of goods under the low duties that we would under the high.

FRENCHMAN: But parting with your gold will ruin you.

CHINAMAN: I want to part with it for something that is useful to me, for I can neither eat it, drink it, nor will it clothe me.

FRENCHMAN: John Bull is very knowing, and is sadly afraid of parting with his gold—he says it distresses him.

CHINAMAN: Pray, ask John Bull how he gets possession of his gold, as he produces none at home. Does he not get it from other countries in exchange for manufactures produced by the capital and industry of his people; and does that distress him? and he is constantly bringing it home, and sending it out with advantage to himself.

FRENCHMAN: That is true, but will not the high duties imposed on your teas by John Bull very much abridge their consumption and the comforts of his people?

CHINAMAN: No doubt it will, and injure his revenue too; but we cannot prevent that, nor can we make fools wise men.

FRENCHMAN: Raise your duties, and coerce John Bull to lower his.

CHINAMAN: John Bull is too obstinate to do that, and we will not punish ourselves in order that we may vex him.

FRENCHMAN: There is still a feeling in my mind that this is a one-sided business?

CHINAMAN: It is a one-sided business, but the balance of gain is in our favour.

FRENCHMAN: Then, as you say the balance is in your favour, how does John Bull pay you?

CHINAMAN: The balance of account is a very different thing from the balance of advantage. In money matters, nations never do a one-sided business. Fiscal regulations may stop business altogether, but the exchange of equivalents must be equal, directly or indirectly: they do not make each other a present of their property.

FRENCHMAN: Then, if I understand you, you think nations deal with each other as individuals do in exchanging their wares—each gets from the other what is more valuable than that which he parts with, and by that means they both get rich?

CHINAMAN: Certainly, and the more extensive their trade the richer they will get.

FRENCHMAN: Then you consider it a fallacy that a balance of trade can exist between nations trading with each other?

CHINAMAN: There may be a debt due from one to the other for a time, as between merchants; but no permanent balance can exist, unless in such a case as John Bull lending Jonathan money, which he refuses to pay: this is the only one-sided business that can exist.

FRENCHMAN: I see you Chinamen are shrewd fellows—do you let your emperor lay a duty on rice at the suggestion of the producers?

CHINAMAN: Our celestial emperor knows better—he will not let the many starve for the benefit of the few: he gives a bounty on rice coming into the country to feed his loyal people.

FRENCHMAN: But John Bull has an eye to the cash: he wants revenue.

CHINAMAN: Experience by this time ought to have taught him better: large consumption of imports at low duties produces the greatest revenue, as well as increases the comforts of his people.

FRENCHMAN: You have opened my eyes: it is but too clear that we Europeans deserve the name you give us—barbarian merchants: we must profit by your wisdom and become wise.—*Economist.*

HALF-A-PINT OF ALE = A YARD OF LAND.—It is not often, we dare say, that a man thinks, when he drinks "a gill of ale," he is swallowing a square yard of land! Yet so it is. There are 31,700,000 acres of land in England, the rental of which is £30,000,000, or 19s. 2d. per acre. An acre, therefore, at 25 years' purchase, is of the value of £23 19s. 2., or 5,750 pence. Divide this by 4,840 (the number of square yards in an acre), and you have a penny and a fifth as the average value of a square yard of English ground!

THE HIGH-LEVEL BRIDGE: — NEWCASTLE AND BERWICK RAILWAY.—Mr. Hudson's being the railway which, in all probability, will be carried into execution, our neighbours, we are certain, will feel obliged to us if we lay before them, now that the plans have been prepared, the exact route which it is intended to take in passing through Gateshead and Newcastle. The line diverges from the Newcastle and Darlington Railway on the west side of High-street, and, curving gently northward, crosses the Half-Moon-lane, at the foot of West-street, by a viaduct, passing over the house now building by Mr. Bainbridge. Sweeping onward, and keeping to the east of the new townhall (Mr. Graham's house), it crosses Pipewellgate and the river at right-angles. It then curves towards the west, in the direction of the proposed railway-station (in the Spital) of the Newcastle and Carlisle Company, crossing the Close by a viaduct a little to the east of the Long-stairs, and Westgate-street (or Clavering-place) by another viaduct, immediately to the south of Bailiff-gate. From the Spital station the line proceeds eastward, crossing Castle-street—touching upon the old castle to the north—crossing the Side (at the foot of Dean-street), Pilgrim-street (between Silver-street and the Painter-heugh), and the Manor-chare (nearly about midway from the head to the foot)—passing over the Medical School, and so on to the Newcastle and North Shields Railway. The viaducts are to cross at the following heights above the level of the roads:—

Half-Moon-lane (to be cut down 1ft. 9in.)	16ft. 3in.
Pipewellgate	99ft. 5in.
The Close	98ft. 8in.
Bankside	41ft. 0in.
Queen-street	23ft. 8in.
Clavering-place	18ft. 0in.
The Postern (to be diverted)	7ft. 8in.
Queen street (second viaduct)	16ft. 9in.
Castle-street	19ft. 0in.
The Side	75ft. 0in.
Pilgrim-street	19ft. 6in.
Manor-chare	53ft. 8in.
Trafalgar-street	35ft. 0in.

It is proposed to take powers to deviate from the line, to the right hand or to the left, to the extent of about half-a-chain.

PRISON DISCIPLINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GATESHEAD OBSERVER.

SIR,—I wish to bring before the public, through the medium of your journal, what in my opinion is an evil, and ought to be remedied without delay.

I live in a country district, where, from its isolated and scattered situation, it cannot receive any regular (or scarcely any) protection from a police force, even if there were a strong

Digitized by Google

one established. There is nothing to retard mischievous and ill-disposed persons from committing assaults and other outrages, except the *punishment* which awaits them on being apprehended. In towns, the great object of a police force, and the greatest use for which it is established, is the prevention more than the detection of crime. This neighbourhood has no preventive force; and when detection and conviction do ensue, there appears no *punishment* to follow. I don't wish to throw the slightest blame on the Magistrates of Gateshead, who, I am convinced, are anxious to preserve the public peace and punish its disturbers; but what I most strongly complain of is, that *imprisonment in the gaol at Durham is not a punishment which operates as a preventive to the commission of crime*—not even of petty assaults. Nay, I question whether it is a pain or a pleasure to those who are in the habit of being committed there by the Magistrates for offences. From personal observation, I know that persons who have suffered imprisonment in the gaol at Durham for misdemeanours have come out of prison, where it was expected they were undergoing *punishment*, very much improved in personal appearance, and have boasted of the comfortable accommodations enjoyed while there. And on many occasions, when parties who have been in the prison at Durham before, have been about to commit assaults, and have been threatened with prosecution, they have said in reply, "You can only send us to Durham, where we would rather be than here."

I strongly censure that maudlin sentimentality which has converted many of the prisons into hospitals, where dissipated disturbers of the peace may retire, and refresh themselves, to better enable them to pursue their wicked career. The essential nature of a prison is a *place of punishment*; and when, through mistaken notions of humanity, or the too acute sensibilities of governors or inspectors, it is converted into a place to be coveted instead of dreaded, its operations has a tendency to encourage rather than prevent crime.

But I must not lengthen this letter, or you will not have room for it. I merely state the evil, and leave the remedy to abler hands.—I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

A Lover of Peace, Law, and Order.

Gateshead Fell, Dec. 4, 1844.

[Our treatment of guilt is not what it should be, but we have no faith in starvation and stripes as a remedy.—Ed. G. O.]

THE GATESHEAD TOWN COUNCIL.

p Thomas Cummins, Esq., Mayor.

Aldermen.	Councillors.		
		p Hymers, J.	*p* Robson, John
p Brockett, W. H.	Bertram, C.	Kent, Samuel	*p* Robson, Jos.
p Davis, Robert	*p* Cook, W.	Lister, J., sen.	*p* Smith, James
p Kenmir, W.	*p* Edward, J.	*p* Lister, J., jun.	*p* Revely, T.
p Pollock, James	*p* Garbutt, C.	*p* Pearson, C. J.	*p* Wilson, J. R.
Sowerby, G.	*p* Glenton, F.	*p* Potts, John	Wylam, Ralph
p Wilson, Thos.			

[Those marked *p* were present.]

An adjourned meeting was held on the 11th Dec. The Town Clerk, after reading the minutes, laid before the Council a letter from Mr. John Greene, Secretary of the Windmill-Hills Committee, appointed at a public meeting of the inhabitants on the 14th of October, requesting the appointment of a Committee of the Council to confer with the Public Committee and the Committee of the Boroughholders, with a view to an amicable settlement of the Borough Property Question. The Town Clerk also intimated that a deputation were in attendance, and would be happy to wait upon the Council.

Messrs. John Greene, George Hawks, William Wylam, G. J. Kenmir, George Crawshay, and William Brown, the deputation in question, now entered the room, and were invited to be seated.

Mr. John Greene, addressing the Mayor, observed that it must be quite unnecessary to explain the circumstances which had led to their appointment. The Council had received a copy of the resolutions of the public meeting, and were also aware that certain resolutions had since been passed by the Boroughholders, reciprocating the wishes of the public for a friendly compromise, and offering to concede certain parts of the Windmill Hills for pleasure-grounds. But before they would come to any definite terms, the Boroughholders wished to know if the Council participated in the feelings of the inhabitants, as expressed at the public meeting, and were prepared to enter upon the proposed negotiation. The Public Committee therefore invited the Council to appoint a Committee of their body, and lend their aid in settling a very unpleasant local question.

Mr. Crawshay requested permission to say one or two words. The deputation represented the feelings of a public meeting called in a spirit of mediation between two parties—namely, the Council and the Boroughholders. They did not pretend to enter into the question of right. They simply came between two contending bodies, eight years at issue, and neither of them yet victorious. It might be difficult to decide which of them was in the right, but it was very clear that in might they were pretty equal; and being so nearly balanced in power, and having been so many years at variance, it was only too probable that the contention might be prolonged for many years to come. Such being the position of affairs, a public meeting of the inhabitants had been convened, and a Committee formed to negotiate a compromise. The question, it was thought, might be profitably settled, if each of the two contending parties could be prevailed upon to relinquish a portion of their claims. The Boroughholders had met, and echoed the wish of the public for an amicable arrangement, by which peace and harmony might be restored. The Public Committee had also had an interview with a Committee of the Boroughholders, in which certain terms proposed by the latter body had been discussed, and an intimation was made that these terms were not final. Indeed, the deputation expected to obtain all that the public desired. But the Boroughholders would come to no definite terms until the Council had responded to the resolutions of the inhabitants. To invite such a response, and to obtain the appointment of a Committee of the Council, were the objects which the deputation had in view. They asked the Council to take no final step, but only to coöperate with their constituents by appointing a Committee, with a view to ascertain whether any terms could be settled for the satisfactory solution of the Borough Property Question. (Applause.)

The deputation was about to retire, when Mr. Ald. Brockett rose and said, he thought this a very good opportunity for the assertion and practical recognition of a salutary principle. The constituency had a right to know what was said and done at the meetings of the Council, and, by way of a beginning, he would move that the gentlemen of the deputation be invited to remain. (Applause.)

Mr. Ald. Kenmir seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted.

The deputation having resumed their seats, Mr. Revely made a few observations on the question before the Council—lauded the conduct of the late Mayor (Mr. Ald. Kenmir) at the public meeting—and expressed a hope that the Council would appoint a Committee in the spirit in which the appointment had been applied for.

Mr. Ald. Brockett said, having taken some part in the discussions on this question, he hoped it would not be considered improper if he now proposed a resolution. In doing so he would not say one word, but exercise the strictest forbearance, and lend his support to the attempt now being made for the restoration of peace and harmony. He saw no objections to the appointment of a Committee. (Applause.) A Committee was appointed in 1843, at the suggestion of Mr. Barras, in a spirit of conciliation and good-will. It had failed in its object; but as a further endeavour was now to be made, having in view the same desirable end, he would move that the Committee be reappointed, with instructions to coöperate with the other Committees in effecting, if possible, an amicable arrangement of the matters in dispute. (Applause.)

Mr. Potts seconded the motion.

The Town Clerk referred to the minute-book, and ascertained that the gentlemen who composed the Committee were Mr. Ald. Davis (the then Mayor), Mr. Ald. Wilson, and Mr. Revely.

It was suggested that the Committee should be enlarged; but Mr. B. was of opinion that, the present being simply a continuation of the same friendly attempt at a settlement, it would be better to leave the Committee as it already stood; and after some discussion the motion was unanimously adopted.

On the motion of Mr. Ald. Kenmir, seconded by Mr. Revely, a vote of thanks was passed to the Sub-Committee for their services; and Mr. Hawks and Mr. Greene having acknowledged the compliment, and thanked the Council for their courtesy, they and their colleagues withdrew.

A House Committee was appointed, to superintend the

Digitized by Google

furnishing of the new townhall, and to make certain arrangements with the Guardians of the Gateshead Union, (who propose to take the former place of meeting, in Oakwellgate).

Mr. JAMES HYMERS wished to know, through the Mayor, if his attorney, Mr. W. L. Harle, might have a copy of Mr. Hopper Williamson's "opinion" on the Street Act?

This question led to a brief discussion. Mr. Harle, it appeared, had applied to the Town Clerk for leave to peruse the "opinion," for his assistance in defending Mr. Hymers against the indictment of the Council; and the correspondence (which was read) was still pending.

The TOWN CLERK said that he demurred to the request, and would be glad to receive the instructions of the Council. His feeling was, that if he were retained as the legal adviser of a private individual, he would not be justified in furnishing the attorney on the other side with a rod to flog his (Mr. Kell's) client's back.

Mr. Ald. BROCKETT: Very good. But the present was not a parallel case. Mr. Williamson's "opinion" was the property of the public of Gateshead, and every burgess had a right to peruse it; and there could be no valid objection to show a burgess either that or any other document which belonged to the borough. The Council, in indicting Mr. Hymers, had no other end in view than the establishment of a public right. Why, then, should he be debarred from the use of a paper which, in his opinion, was important to the elucidation of the question at issue between him and the Council? All such papers were the property of their constituents, and he would move that every burgess be allowed to inspect, and, if he wished it, to copy, any corporation document whatever.

Mr. Ald. POLLOCK agreed with Mr. Brockett in principle. Could the Town Clerk see any practical objection to its adoption?

The TOWN CLERK: The Corporation of Newcastle lost a valuable property by allowing an inspection of their papers.

Mr. Ald. POLLOCK: We are safe enough in that respect. (Laughter.)

Eventually, Mr. BROCKETT limited his motion, for the present, to the case of Mr. Hymers, but gave notice of his original motion for the next meeting.

Mr. Ald. KENMIR seconded the motion as amended, and it was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Ald. BROCKETT presented a Report from the Special Committee appointed to negotiate with the Newcastle and Darlington Junction Railway Company, as proprietors of the Brandling Railway, for a settlement of the claims preferred by the Council, and particularly for an abatement of the nuisance at the railway-crossing in Half Moon-lane. At an interview with Mr. Harrison and Mr. Kirkley, the engineer and sub-engineer, a plan of a new street, proceeding from the foot of Mulgrave-terrace, and by the end of Grosvenor street, through Melbourne-street and West-street, into High-street, had been submitted to those gentlemen; and they were informed that if such a street were not constructed, in lieu of the present road from Mulgrave-terrace into High-street, by the Half Moon-lane, the Council would strenuously oppose the bill of which notice had been given in the newspapers. Mr. Harrison promised to communicate the wishes of the Council to Mr. Hudson. A promise was also given that the path across Greene's-field should be restored; that the palisades of the houses, Nos. 202 and 203, High-street, should be set back; and that the foot-road below the railway in Half-Moon-lane should be lighted with gas. With regard to the steps in front of the houses at the foot of West-street, the Committee were informed that the whole of that property would have to be removed, if the Company obtained their bill. At present, therefore, nothing need be done in that matter, but it must not be lost sight of.—Mr. Brockett, having concluded the Report, congratulated the Council on the prospect which now presented itself of a settlement of disputes which had so long been pending. The meeting of to-day would truly be a most important one, if it should hereafter be found that they had laid the foundation of a settlement both of the Borough Question and the Brandling Question. (Laughter.)

The MAYOR: We shall have nothing left to do. (Laughter.)

The Report was received and confirmed.

Mr. REVELY presented a Report from the Town Improvement Committee, and moved that it be received. This having been done, the Council proceeded to discuss its several recommendations.

Mr. GARBUTT, seconded by Mr. Ald. BROCKETT, moved the appointment of Mr. Joseph Fairs and Mr. Thomas Atkinson as collectors of the Street Act assessment. Mr. HYMERS moved that Mr. Clement Stephenson be substituted for Mr. Fairs, but the amendment was not seconded. The original motion was then put and carried.

The first Wednesdays in March and April were named as days of appeal against the rate. On the suggestion of Mr. HYMERS, the first Wednesday in August was added.

The next question which arose out of the Town Improvement Committee's Report was that raised by Mr. William Walker in his letter, read at a previous meeting, and referred for consideration. Mr. Walker, it will be remembered, claimed the repayment of part of the expense he had incurred in making and flagging a footpath in front of Walker-terrace; and the Report recommended that he should receive £15, in consideration of the ground which he had given up to the public, and his outlay in flagging.

Mr. JAMES HYMERS moved that the recommendation of the Committee be confirmed.

Mr. Ald. BROCKETT seconded the motion.

The motion was opposed on the ground that other persons, who had a greater claim for repayment than Mr. Walker, had received none; that he had provided no accommodation but what was needed for the enjoyment of the occupiers of the terrace; and that the footpath was of no service whatever to the public.

It was urged, on the other side, that the terrace would no doubt form part of a street, at no distant day; and that there were precedents (as, for instance, in the case of Ellison-street,) for the proposed appropriation of the rates.

At the close of a long discussion, Mr. COOK moved that the recommendation of the Committee be suspended until some general principle were established, the application of which would do justice to all.

Mr. EDWARD seconded the amendment, and the Council divided as follows:—

For the Amendment.—Aldermen Pollock, Wilson, Davis, and Kenmir; and Councillors Cook, Edward, Potts, Revely, Robson (Joseph), Glenton, Smith, Wilson, and Pearson.

For the Original Motion.—The Mayor; Ald. Brockett; and Councillors Garbutt, Hymers, Lister, Jun., and Robson (John).

Certain suggestions received from Mr. R. Wallace, the Town Surveyor of Newcastle, (on the application of the Town Clerk,) and an application from Mr. Dewar on the subject a footpath, were referred to the Town Improvement Committee; and on the motion of Mr. Ald. KENMIR, seconded by Mr. Ald. BROCKETT, a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Mr. Wallace, for his prompt and valuable services.

The motion of Mr. J. R. WILSON, on the subject of members' attendances, was set aside by the previous question; and routine business having been transacted, the meeting came to a close.

THE HASWELL EXPLOSION.

WE have received a copy of the Report made by Messrs. Lyell and Faraday to Sir James Graham, on the subject of the explosion at Haswell colliery, and on the means of preventing such accidents. That both of the gentlemen above-named are persons of very eminent abilities and great accomplishments, no one will venture to dispute. Mr. Faraday has secured to himself, in the department of chemical philosophy, a reputation which is recognized by every man of science in the civilized world; and Mr. Lyell takes very high rank among the most learned geologists of his time. We do not think, however, that either of these distinguished men will win any accession of fame by the Report they have laid before Sir James Graham, on the subject of explosions in coal-mines. The viewers of the North, without exception, laugh at it; and although pretending to no scientific knowledge or any profound learning in matters of coal-pits ourselves, we must say that the plan of prevention which the combined ingenuity of Sir James Graham's Commissioners has suggested for these calamitous explosions, reminds us very much of the remedial expedient of that humane Princess who, being informed that the people were starving for want of bread, asked, with much inventive eagerness, why they did

Digitized by Google

not meet the difficulty by eating cake! We shall not, however, enter into the discussion of a question which it would be difficult to render intelligible to any who are not familiar with the interior economy of a coal-mine, involving the system of ventilation—the mysterious construction of a *goaf*—the consequences of drawing a *jud*—and other matters, wrapped up—concealed rather than explained—by the jargon of a coal-pit.

We believe that the philosophers' plan of preventing explosions in coal-mines, though exhibiting, as all the plans of men like Mr. Faraday and Mr. Lyell will exhibit, much ingenuity, has the defect of being perfectly impracticable. The principle of it is no doubt a good one—it is that of drawing away the atmosphere of the *goaf*—not of ventilating, by blowing air into it. No doubt, if Messrs. Faraday and Lyell had contrived any comparatively-simple machinery, by which all the diluted carburetted-hydrogen gas, or fire-damp, could be drawn out of a pit, they would effectually have accomplished the object of their mission, and have merited, at the hands of viewers, pitmen, coalowners, and society in general, the highest tributes of praise and thanks. Remove the explosive elements, and there will be no explosions. We fear, however, that the philosophers have not yet arrived at that wished-for consummation, by the suggestion of "the goaf ventilation pipe." The parturient mountain has furnished only a muscipular abortion.

The failure, however, is hardly to be attributed to the distinguished individuals whom the Home Office selected, and sent down to the county of Durham, to report on the Haswell explosion—individuals who, though deeply skilled in many things, had probably never been down a coal-pit till they entered on this difficult undertaking.

One of the Commissioners, at least, should have been a practical man—a man who united scientific attainments and mental acuteness with a thorough knowledge of mining operations, gathered from experience. There would have been no difficulty whatever in finding a gentleman so gifted among those engaged in superintending the working of our coal-pits; and we feel assured that had either Mr. Lyell or Mr. Faraday been associated with such a colleague, they would have produced suggestions for the prevention of explosions more likely to serve the interests of humanity, and to enhance their own high reputation, than can be traced in their Report.

Nugatory, however, as we consider this Report, in regard to the purpose for which it was framed, there are parts of it, bearing on other matters, which we have read with the utmost satisfaction.

In the first place, we are glad to find that they entirely acquit the owners of Haswell colliery of having been in any way accessary to the awful tragedy of the 28th of September, by niggardly or careless arrangements in conducting the operations of their mine. Mr. Roberts, we believe, endeavoured to make out some charge of this description against the Haswell proprietors. Messrs. Lyell and Faraday are of opinion that any such imputations on these parties are most unjust.

We are bound, from all the evidence, and from our own personal examination, to state, on the part of the owners and officers of the Haswell colliery, that, as far as the principles of ventilation in coal mines have been developed and applied, and in comparison with the general practice of the trade, the Little Pit appears to have been most admirably ventilated. No expense seems to have been spared in the first setting out of the works, or in carrying them through, or in the daily arrangements under ground; and this care was further favoured by the natural circumstances of the mine, the seam of coal being very regular, having a strong shale roof or ceiling, and with scarcely any *fault*. The mine has the character of being one of the best ventilated in the whole trade—a circumstance which, though it leads us in the fullest degree to exonerate the owners and officers from all blame in reference to the late terrible event, makes us more anxious, if possible, to discover its cause, and suggest some practical guard against its recurrence in future.

This is so far satisfactory. The calamity was appalling enough—there was no occasion to aggravate its horrors by representing them as the result of indifference to human safety or suffering.

The concluding observations of the Report are even still more important. They prevent us from feeling any regret that Messrs. Faraday and Lyell have been charged by the Government with the duty of inspecting the mining operations of the North. Messrs. Faraday & Lyell give their opinion that it is highly expedient to provide some larger share of education for the pitmen than they usually receive.

The public spirited and intelligent gentlemen of South Shields, who undertook, a few years ago, a very elaborate inquiry into the circumstances of accidents in coal-mines, strongly recommended, in their valuable Report, that more attention should be paid to the scientific education of those persons who are charged with the responsibility of directing the working of the coal-mines. The expediency of directing the operations of mining by the light of science, has been well recognized in other countries. In France, the scientific instruction of the directors and other officers engaged in mining, has long since been provided for by the State—and, we are assured, with the most beneficial results. Even in Egypt, as we learn from the Shields Report, the extraordinary man who governs that country has established a mining department in the Polytechnic School, in which the following courses are observed by the pupils:—

1. Industrial chemistry, as applied to the manufactures and raw productions of Egypt. The pupils visit the manufactories, the mines, &c.
2. Mineralogical and geological studies, including travelling to the scenes of instruction.
3. Machinery and management of mines.

This is an institution of the Government of Egypt. England, whose boast it so often is that she leads the van of nations in all that respects the highest interests of mankind, has done nothing in this important field of popular instruction. Not only has nothing been done by the State for this purpose, but few persons seem to desire that anything should. When a noble offer was made, in 1840, by Sir Charles Lemon, M.P. for West Cornwall, to establish in that county a Mining School, by giving a site for the building, with a sum of £500 at present, and a bequest at his death of no less than £10,000—even this munificent proposal was inadequate to excite the smallest coöperation on the part of others in that district, and the project fell to the ground.

The South Shields Report contains a very interesting letter from Mr. Temple Chevallier, of the University of Durham, warmly supporting such an institution as the Committee had in contemplation. The University of Durham, said Mr. Chevallier, by having been the first academical body to establish a class of civil engineering and mining, has given full proof of its anxiety to supply an acknowledged deficiency in the system of general education, and it is still willing to coöperate further, in order to effect an extension of its plans.

All this, good and useful as it is, relates only to the training of persons of superior station. Messrs. Lyell and Faraday, with that care for the humbler classes of society, and that appreciation of their importance in all human concerns, which we are happy to believe is the general accompaniment of superior merit, go a great way beyond the views which have been here expressed. Their large and wise counsel we have copied into our fourth page. It is the doctrine of true wisdom. We trust that, coming from such a quarter, it will not be preached to the Government of this country in vain.

Gateshead Free Trade Society.—This society met, as usual, at Mr. Rickaby's, Temperance Hotel, on Tuesday last, at 8 o'clock, and it was determined to begin the canvass at once. The president and secretary, and other members of the society, will canvass in person. It was resolved to supply every elector with a copy of Mr. Hutt's speech on Mr. Villiers's motion of last session. The canvass will be effected gradually and thoroughly, and every means will be taken in the mean time to open the eyes of the electors.—*Tyne Mercury, Dec.* 11.

Digitized by Google

The Annual Ball for the benefit of the Gateshead Dispensary, was held on the 19th Dec., at the Assembly Room of the Grey Horse inn. The Stewards on the occasion were the Mayor, and Messrs. Henry Barras and Joshua Greene, jun.; and the company included the Mayor and Mayoress of Gateshead, Mr. Hutt, the Member for the borough, the Mayor and Mayoress of Newcastle, and the principal families of the borough and neighbourhood. The ball, which was led off by Mr. Joshua Greene, jun., and Mrs. Dalton (daughter of the late rector of Gateshead, Mr. Collinson), was extremely well conducted, and gave great satisfaction to the numerous friends of the Dispensary who assembled on the occasion.

Gateshead Mechanics' Institute.—The new feature of the anniversary meeting—a *soiree*—has proved so completely successful, that the committee will hardly venture to omit it in any future year. The large school-room of the Wesleyan Methodists, so cheerfully and kindly granted for the occasion, was comfortably filled on Wednesday, Dec. 18—(the time appointed by the rules)—and among the company we were glad to observe one or more representatives of the leading families of the borough. The total number present was about two hundred. The tea was excellently provided by Miss Murray, of the Half-Moon inn, and gave unqualified satisfaction.—At the conclusion of the social meal, William Hutt, Esq., M.P., (on the motion of the Worshipful the Mayor,) was called upon to preside, and congratulated the members on the presence of so many of the fair inhabitants of Gateshead. The honourable member then referred with regret to the slow progress of education; and, after reminding the company of what he had said, in 1843, on the subject of "strikes," proceeded to adduce the late turn-out of the miners, and its unsuccessful issue, in illustration of the soundness of his views; while, at the same time, he spoke in the highest terms of that patience, courage, and forbearance, worthy of a wiser course, which had been displayed by the great body of the colliery-population, from the beginning to the end of the struggle.—Mr. G. S. Dixon, Senior Secretary, read the Committee's Report, showing that the institution was never more prosperous than in the past year, but that its usefulness was much obstructed by the want of suitable premises—a subject to which their attention had been directed for a considerable time. The number of members was 194; of books in the library, about 2,000; of new books added during the year, 125; and of issues since the last anniversary, 5,680.—The Treasurer, Mr. Councillor Garbutt, read a balance-sheet. The current receipts of the year had been £85 odd, and the disbursements about the same.—On the motion of Mr. Ald. Brockett, seconded by Mr. Ald. Wilson, the report and accounts were received and adopted.—An alteration of the rules, proposed by Mr. James Clephan, and seconded by Mr. T. Pringle, jun., was negatived by 25 votes against 19, on the motion of Mr. Hedley, seconded by Mr. J. Brown, on the principle of "let well alone."—Mr. Crawhay brought forward his motion, "That it be an instruction to the Committee of the ensuing year, to take into consideration, and report upon, the best means of extending the usefulness of the institution, by building and otherwise." This proposal, and the appropriate speech of the mover, were well received. Mr. Crawshay explained that he contemplated a building, long needed and often suggested in Gateshead, to answer a variety of public purposes—including a large room for lectures, meetings, concerts, balls, &c. In aid of such a building the firm of Hawks & Crawshay would make a donation of £100. (Loud and prolonged applause.) The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.—The Mayor (Mr. Cummins) moved a vote of thanks to the officers of the past year; which was acknowledged by the Town Clerk (Mr. Kell, V.P).—Mr. Councillor Harle, in moving a vote of thanks to the ladies who had presided at the tea-tables, made an eloquent speech on behalf of Mechanics' Institutes—expressed his regret that the clergy and other ministers of religion gave them so little countenance and assistance—enforced the importance of basing education upon religion—and referred to the "charge" of Mr. Justice Coleridge at York, on the education of the people and the increase of crime.—Mr. James Clephan observed that he was only surprised, looking at the revelations made by the Health of Towns Commissioners in their Report, and the ignorance in which the people were suffered to grow up by the State, that crime did not still more abound in the land. Mr. Harle had referred to the charge delivered by Judge Coleridge at York. His lordship had since delivered a charge at Durham, and on the latter occasion he had borne emphatic testimony to the value of education, by complaining that special jurors were unlawfully exempted from serving as common jurors, and that the intellectual and moral character of common juries was thereby impaired.—The vote of thanks to the ladies having been carried by acclamation, Mr. Garbutt moved the thanks of the company to the trustees for the use of the room. The motion was seconded by Mr. Councillor John Robson, and unanimously passed.—Mr. William Brown returned thanks. The room, he stated, was erected for educational purposes, and was therefore most appropriately occupied on the present occasion. (Applause.) It had long been employed for the purposes of a Sunday-school; and he had the pleasure of stating that it would shortly be opened as a day-school, in which young persons would be taught, not merely reading, writing, and arithmetic, but many of the higher branches of a liberal education. (Applause.)—Dr. Turner moved a vote of thanks to the President—which was carried by loud and general acclamation.—Mr. Hutt remarked, in acknowledging the compliment, that this was the first tea-meeting he had ever attended, but he hoped it would not be the last—(a sentiment to which every one present most heartily responded).—The experiment, indeed, has been crowned with the most gratifying success, and the committee will feel encouraged to repeat the *soiree* in 1845.—On the retirement of the President, the Secretaries proceeded to cast up the voting papers, and to ascertain the result of the annual poll. It was as follows:—*President*, William Hutt, Esq., M.P.; *Vice-Presidents*, Rev. Dr. Davies, and W. H. Brockett, John Barras, Henry Brady, George Crawshay, George Hawks, William Kell, and Thomas Swinburne, Esqrs.; *Treasurer*, Mr. Garbutt; *Secretaries*, Messrs. Dixon and Fawcett; *Committee*, Dr. Elliot, and Messrs. T. H. Apedaile, George Bell, John Brown, Charles Brown, T. Cummins, James Clephan, Joseph Clephan, James Guthrie, John Garbutt, W. L. Harle, William Hedley, John Hunter, F. P. Ionn, G. J. Kenmir, Joseph Maughan, T. Pringle, jun., and S. Wilson.

Gateshead Low Fell.—A Christmas dinner was held in the large room of the Public Rooms, Gateshead Low Fell, on Monday, with a view to promote the social advancement and prosperity of the Fell, by establishing a friendly intercourse beween all classes of its inhabitants. The dinner, which was both a substantial and elegant one, was furnished by several gentlemen of the district; and the dessert was contributed by the worthy Rector of the parish, Mr. Atkinson. There were forty persons present at the dinner. The chair was filled by Ald. Wilson; and Councillor James Smith officiated as vice-president. Among the company were the Mayor, Ald. Brockett, Ald. Davis, Councillor Kent, Mr. Frederick Lamb, Mr. Geddes, Mr. John Robson, Mr. John Barkus, Mr. William Barkus, Mr. Daniel Robson, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Neilson, Mr. Neilson, jun., Mr. Thomas Liddell, Mr. Thomas Patterson, Mr. Bennett, Mr. James, Mr. William Wilson, Mr. Miller, Mr. Wright, Mr. Thomas Wilson, jun., Mr. Laws, Mr. Todd, Mr. Todd, jun., Mr. Legge, Mr. Hetherington, &c., &c. Several excellent songs were sung by Mr. Geddes and others; and Mr. Wright recited one of his poetical contributions, alluding, with characteristic humour, to the events of the Fell and the various actors therein. The evening was a most agreeable one, and we trust the excellent intentions of the promoters of the dinner will be crowned with success.

The Gateshead Theatre.—Mr. Thorne had a bumper-house lately, when he gave a "Juvenile Night." The entertainments consisted of the *Christmas Pantomime*, the *Children in the Wood*, and *Blue Beard*. The young folks were delighted. There was some little disappointment, perhaps, at the happy termination of the interlude; for the "babes," instead of dying and being covered-up by "robins," escaped their cruel uncle's plot, and, when the curtain fell, were eating plumpudding! We have stated that the theatre was crowded. It is so, we understand, nearly every night; and if managers in general were to make their establishments less expensive, and to lower their prices, we should not hear so many complaints of "the decay of the drama." This is an age of "penny magazines" and "penny postage;" an age, too, in which the richer classes have more abundant means of fireside-amusement than their predecessors enjoyed; and managers must "reform their system altogether," if they wish to "put money in their pockets."

Digitized by Google

HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE.—Sir John Fife, paying a very commendable and proper attention to the interests of Newcastle and Gateshead, has been in correspondence with Mr. Hudson on the above subject. We give the letters which have passed between them :—

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, December 19, 1844.

DEAR SIR,—I write to you on a subject of great importance to Newcastle.

There is at present, here and in the neighbourhood, an apprehension that you are not likely to realize the public expectation, in the construction of a High-Level Bridge, for the general use of foot-passengers and others, with horses and ordinary carriages, besides the purposes of the railway-trains.

I need not remind you that we had provided plans, subscribed money, and were preparing to go to Parliament for power to form a High Level Bridge for general use, when you agreed to take the affair out of our hands, and construct such a bridge as might accommodate Newcastle and Gateshead, while it answered, at the same time, the purposes of the railway.

May I beg of you to let me know, as soon as possible, what we really have to expect, that we may be prepared either to meet your views or adopt such proceedings as the convenience and interest of this neighbourhood may require. I am, dear Sir, truly yours,

George Hudson, Esq. JOHN FIFE.

York, December 21, 1844.

MY DEAR SIR,—Absence from home prevented my replying to your letter till to-day.

We propose to construct, along with the railway-bridge, a foot-passenger bridge; and we are anxious also to make it applicable to horses and carriages; but some difficulty arises, from the alarm the engines might cause to them. I propose being in Newcastle on Monday, the 30th, along with Messrs. Stephenson, when I hope I may have the pleasure of seeing you, and can talk further on the subject.

Of course I can have no objection, if any other party are ready to execute the work, to give way. I am, yours very truly,

Sir John Fife. GEORGE HUDSON.

A great deal of doubt and suspicion is beginning to be entertained on the subject of the "high level bridge." Our maxims are—"Fairplay," and "Hear both sides." We have no preference, save on public grounds, for Mr. Hudson's line; and we shall be prepared to resist his projects as warmly as we have hitherto supported them, the moment that we shall be convinced that he is swerving from his pledges. Our duty, too, to the public of this district, demands that we should watch the movements of all railway-projectors closely; and this, our friends may depend upon it, WE SHALL DO.

THE HIGH-LEVEL BRIDGE ACROSS THE TYNE.

MR. HUDSON, the Railway-Colossus of the age, has been in this neighbourhood during the past week, and has had conferences with Committees of both the Newcastle and Gateshead Corporations.

The following letters, which have been addressed by him to Sir John Fife and the Chairman of a Committee of the Newcastle Council, respecting the proposed High Level Bridge between this borough and Newcastle, are worthy of particular notice :—

LETTER TO SIR JOHN FIFE.

MY DEAR SIR,—I hasten to give you my assurance that the High Level Bridge shall give a convenience for the passage over it of horses and carriages. I have written a letter to Mr. Turner, the Chairman of the Corporation Committee, whom I saw yesterday, stating that, after a consultation with Mr. R. Stephenson, I saw no difficulty in complying with the strongly-expressed wish of the inhabitants of Newcastle.

I am, yours very truly,

Newcastle, Dec. 31, 1844. GEORGE HUDSON.

LETTER TO MR. TURNER.

MY DEAR SIR,—In consequence of what passed at the meeting I had the honour of having with the Committee of the Corporation yesterday, on the subject of the bridge over the Tyne, proposed to be made by the Newcastle and Berwick Railway Company, I have had a consultation with Mr. Robert Stephenson this morning; and, after hearing his views and explanations, I have no hesitation in saying that if the Council, expressing the opinion of the majority of the inhabitants of the town, shall desire it to be done, I will engage that the bridge shall be made applicable to the passage of horses, carriages, and foot-passengers, as well as railway carriages.

In accordance with what I proposed yesterday to the Committee, I will give directions that a clause shall be inserted in the Act (a copy of which will be sent for the perusal of the Corporation), by which the Newcastle and Berwick Railway Company shall be prevented taking toll on any part of their line, unless the bridge over the Tyne, and the passage of the railway through Newcastle, be completed within five years from the passing of the Act. I am, &c.,

Newcastle, Dec. 31, 1844. GEORGE HUDSON.

It will be recollected that, in a letter published by Mr. Hudson in October last (in reply to Lord Howick's address to the landowners of Northumberland), he made use of the following words :—

"His Lordship's assertion that the line I proposed was generally understood to be intended to cross the Tyne considerably to the East of the present bridge at Newcastle, *is at variance with the fact. If* any such understanding were *general* (which I take leave to doubt), it was *without foundation.* It was *never in the contemplation* of myself or Messrs. Stephenson to cross the river Tyne below the present bridge."

Now although this paragraph is somewhat equivocal—denouncing, as it does, in one line, *that* "to be at variance with the fact," which, in the very next, it admits may, possibly, have been true—it was still valuable as an assurance that a High-Level Bridge would most certainly be erected between Newcastle and Gateshead.

Mr. Hudson's letters, then, of the 31st of December, may be regarded as a renewal of his pledge of the 22d of October.

Parliamentary notices, too, have been given, and plans and sections have been deposited, in furtherance of Mr. Hudson's pledge.

It is rather unfortunate, however, that the projected operations on "both sides of the Tyne" are not exhibited on these plans—the lines of railway to be constructed or adopted on the North side of the Tyne, only, being to be seen at the Clerk of the Peace's office in Newcastle, and those on the South side, only, being visible at Durham.

But the law requires no further information than this :—therefore, Mr. Hudson is not, legally, to blame for the ignorance of the public as to the appearance on paper of his entire line of operations between the Victoria Bridge on the one side, and the point of departure from the Newcastle and Shields Railway, northwards, on the other.

There is no doubt, however, that the public ought to be made acquainted, and thoroughly so, with the whole project; and this service we intend to render in our next week's paper. Then, perhaps, our townsmen and neighbours will think it advisable to consider whether, under the appearances which Mr. Hudson's lines on each side of the Tyne present, it may not be necessary to call for the completion of the High-Level Bridge, as at present promised, within a somewhat shorter period than five years.

The Newcastle and Darlington Junction Railway Act, it should be remembered, authorized the erection of a High-Level Bridge. No such bridge, however, has been executed; and the notice given by Mr. Hudson's party includes the substitution of another bridge, in lieu of that already sanctioned by Parliament. Happily, however, the bridge now proposed is in the same situation, or nearly so, as the one already sanctioned. But care should now be taken to prevent the probability of the session of 1846 being likewise called upon to undo the bridge-legislation of 1845.

We shall not, at present, point out the means which might be adopted for efficiently protecting the towns of Newcastle and Gateshead against the erection, *at some not very distant period*, of a bridge at Bill Point. The necessity of precaution will nevertheless be obvious, on examination of the plan which will be found in our next number. The experience of Gateshead has proved, both painfully and indisputably, that railway-mischiefs, which might have been very easily *prevented*, are the most difficult things in the world to be *cured*.

THE BONDED BISCUIT BILL.

WE have received from "A MASTER BAKER," residing at some distance from Gateshead, a letter on the above subject, which he wishes us to insert in the *Observer*, because it is a shipping journal, and published in the borough which Mr. Hutt represents in the House of Commons.

"When," says he, "I think of the great boon that has been conferred on the millers, bakers, and shipowners of the kingdom, by the Bonded Biscuit Act, of the conciseness and simplicity with which it is drawn up, and the ease with which it is carried into practice, (particularly so, at least, in this port, aided as the bakers have been by the prompt attention of the

Digitized by Google

officers of Her Majesty's Customs,) I feel somewhat reluctant in offering a suggestion for an extension of its usefulness; especially when I am constrained to admit that my amendment would not tend to any very large increase of the immense business which can, and has been already done, under the present provisions of the Act. But my proposal would remove what is certainly an obstacle to its complete success. Owners of small British vessels, making short foreign voyages, and foreigners who trade to our ports, under similar circumstances, cannot, many of them, afford to take a sufficiency of biscuit and flour, under Mr. Hutt's Bill, to make it worth their while to give bond on a 5s. stamp, with an additional charge of 1s. for the filling of it up for signature.

"During the year 1844, several Prussian shipmasters, not in want of grocery stores, understanding that we had biscuit and flour in bond, called to order (say) 2 cwt. of sea-biscuit, at 13s. per cwt., and 6 st. of flour, at 1s. 6d. per stone; but finding that, to save 3s. per cwt. on the biscuit, and 4d. per stone on the flour, (in all, 8s., or about 20 per cent. on the above-named quantity,) they would have to give bond, at a cost of 6s., or nearly 20 per cent. on the price of the biscuits and flour required by them from the bond-warehouse, making only a difference of 2s. on the order—all such orders, without exception, were withdrawn, on account of the expense of the bond.

"Last November, at this port, a Norwegian captain ordered 1¼ cwt. of captain's biscuit, three sacks of flour, and a small quantity of grocery stores, from bond. The three sacks of flour being considered too large a quantity for the voyage as ship's stores, the merchant, in executing the order, had to ship the flour as for export, and to give bond, at a cost of 6s., that the flour would not be re-landed for consumption in the United Kingdom. The captain had also to give bond, at the same cost, for his trifling amount of bonded stores.

"I really think, that when biscuit and flour are only wanted for ship's stores, or even when two or three sacks of flour are wanted, as in the case of the poor Norwegian, for his last voyage for the season, for his own use, if the necessary bond were given on a stamp of small cost, the change from the high-priced stamp to one of small value, would neither impair the security against fraud, nor occasion any loss to the revenue. The increase in the number of orders would atone for the reduction in the tax.

"Since the introduction of Mr. Hutt's admirable Bill, masters and journeymen have been considerably better employed, and much more regularly. The number of workmen on tramp has therefore been much reduced by the operation of the measure."

"THE QUEEN *v.* JAMES HYMERS."

At the Durham quarter-sessions, which (so far as jury business was concerned) commenced on Monday, Dec. 28, and concluded next morning, the indictment against Mr. James Hymers, of this borough, for an alleged nuisance, was called in the due course of business on the former day.

Mr. Otter rose and spoke nearly as follows:—I appear for Mr. James Hymers, the defendant in this case. The indictment against that gentleman, for a nuisance in Gateshead, was found at the last quarter-sessions for this county. The fifth section of 60 George III., cap. 4, is as follows:—"If a defendant shall have received notice of such indictment having been found twenty days before such subsequent session, he or she shall plead to such indictment at such subsequent session, and trial shall proceed thereupon at such same session." Now Mr. Harle, the attorney of my client, is here; my client himself is here; he has received much more than twenty days' notice of this indictment being found at the last sessions; and he is prepared to-day to plead to the indictment, according to the statute, and to try the case. I understand that there is no prosecutor here, and the indictment must fall to the ground.

Mr. Scruton, Deputy Clerk of the Peace: If you press the case, I must send a special messenger to Gateshead, for Mr. Kell, the Town Clerk.

Mr. Granger: I hold a retainer in this case, but I have no instructions to-day. Can the twenty days' notice be proved?

Mr. Otter: Oh yes! the officer of the court will prove that. It is clear that misapprehension of the law exists somewhere, and we have no desire to be uncourteous to the Corporation of Gateshead, or to Mr. Kell; but we wish it to be distinctly understood, that if, according to the seventh section of the statute, we ask for further time to plead, we do so, not for our own convenience, but to extricate the Corporation from the dilemma in which they are placed as prosecutors.

Mr. Otter now communicated with Mr. Harle, and made the motion that further time be granted for pleading; to which the Court assented, and the case stands over.

[It is clear, from the foregoing report, that the Corporation of Gateshead was "caught napping." If Mr. Otter had pressed the case, and the worthy Clerk of the Peace had sent a special messenger to Gateshead for the Town Clerk, let us see how matters would have stood. The discussion took place in Court about 11 o'clock. The next train to Gateshead was at 12. The "messenger" would have arrived at the Town Clerk's office about half-past 1. The train returned to Durham at 2, and the Town Clerk must have therefore collected his witnesses and his papers in half-an-hour. They would have gone into Court at half-past 3. Mr. Granger would have given a hasty glance at his brief; and (query) what time would have been left to try the case? The forbearance of Mr. Hymers averted all this hurry and confusion; and, as peacemakers, we would suggest to the Council—of which Mr. Hymers is himself a member—that after what has occurred the indictment had better be dropped. We have been told, too, since Monday, that Mr. Bell, the principal witness for the prosecution, was not at home on that day.—Ed. G. O.]

THE MYSTERIES OF MESMERISM.

[FROM HOOD'S MAGAZINE.]

Dear Mary,—This cums hoping yure well, and to advize you to larn Mismerising. Its dun with yure Hands, and is as easy as taking sites at Pepel, or talking on yure fingers. If I was nigh you, I'd larn you in no time to make Passes, which is only pawing, like, without touchin, at someboddys face or back, witch gives them a tittevating feeling on the galvanic nerves, And then off they go into a Trance in a giffy, and talk in their sleep like Orators, I should say like Oracles, and anser watever you ax. Whereby you may get yure Fortin told, and find out other fokes sweathearts & luve secrets, And diskiver Theaves better than by Bible & Key, And have yure inward Disorders told, & wats good for them. Sukey's was the indigestibles, and to take as much rubbub as would hide a shillin'. All this is done by the sombulist, that's the sleeper, seeing through every think quite transparent, in their Trance, as is called Clair Voying, so that they can pint out munny hid under the Erth, & burried bones, & springs of water, and vanes of mettle, and menny things besides.

Yesterday I was mismerized meeself into a Trance, and clare voyed the chork Gout to John's stomack as plane as Margit Clifts. So I prescribed him to take Collyflower, witch by rites should have been Collycinth, but I forgot the proper word. Howsumever, he did eat two large ones, and promises to cum round.

It would make you split yure sides with laffin to see me mismerize our Thomas & make him go into all sorts of odd postures & anticks & capers Like a Dotterel, for watever I do he must coppy to the snapping of a finger, and cant object to nuthing, for as the song says I've got his Will and his Power. Likewise you can make the Sombulist taste watever you think proper, so I give him mismerized Warter witch at my Command is transmoggrified on his pallet to Shampain & makes him as drunk as Old Gooseberry, and then he will jump Jim Crow, or go down on his bended knees and confess all his peckaddillos, Witch is as diverten as reading the Misteries of Parris.

The wust to mismerize is Reuben the Cotchman; not that hes too wakeful, for he's generally beery, And goes off like a shot, but he wont talk in his sleep, only snores.

The Page is more passable and very clarevoying. He have twice seed a pot of goold in the middle flower-bed. But the gardner wont have it dug up. And he says theres a skelliton bricked into the stair-case wall, so that we never dares at nite to go up alone. Also he sees Visions and can profesy and have foretold two Earthquacks and a grate Pleg.

Cook wants to mismerize too but wat with her being so much at the fire and her full habbit she always goes off to sleep afore the Sombulist. But Sukey can do it very well. Tho in great distress about Mrs. Hardin's babby witch Sukey offered to mismerize in loo of surrup of Poppies or Godfrey's Cordial but the pore Innocent wont wake up agin, nor havent for two hole days. As would be a real blessin to Muthers and Nusses in a moderate way, but mite be carried too far, and require a

Digitized by Google

Crowners Quest. As yet thats the only Trial we have made out of the House, But we mean to mismerize the Baker, and get out of him who he really does mean to offer to, for he is quite a General Lover.

Sum pepel is very dubbius about Mismerizing, and sum wont have it at any price; but Missis is for it, very strong, and says she means to believe every attom about it till sumboddy proves quite the reverse. She practises making passes every day, and is studdyin Frenology besides, for she says between the two you may play upon pepel's pennyeraniums like a Piany, and put them into any Key you like. And of course her fust performance will be a Master piece on the Head of the Family.

To be sbure it seems a wonderful power to be given to one over ones Fellow Creturs, and as mite be turned to Divilish purposes But witch I cant stop to pint out for makin the beds. To tell the truth, with so much Mismerizing going on, our Wurks has got terrible behind hand And the carpits has not been swep for a week. So no more at present in haste from

Your luving Friend,

ELIZA PASSMORE.

P.S.—A most remarkable Profesy! The Page have tortold that the Monkey would some day bite Missis, and lo! and behold he have flone at her, and made his teeth meet in her left ear. If that ant profesying I dont know what is.

THE MEMBER FOR GATESHEAD.

AT a time when a systematic attempt is being made to disturb the representation of this borough, we think it right to take a short review of some passages in the career of our present Member, which have contributed to induce us, and we believe many others, to give him our unhesitating support.

We are not going to speak of political opinions, or of steady, practical adherence to them. We might be unwilling to send any man to Parliament who differed from us on the merits of those broad principles of civil government, which we deem essential to well-regulated liberty; but mere accordance with our political views would not, of itself, establish a title to our support.

We think that Mr. Hutt has other claims. Among them are the remarkable zeal and success with which he has devoted himself to the removal of those practical abuses which, though too frequently disregarded by men in public life, exercise a powerful influence on the general prosperity.

Mr. Hutt has been termed a party man, and he may be so; but that his thoughts and his energies have not been exclusively devoted to the furtherance of party triumphs, we think a candid retrospect of his public conduct will sufficiently attest.

Our attention was first particularly called to Mr. Hutt, some years ago, by remarking him insisting (in opposition to the then existing Government) that shipowners at the outports ought to participate in all the advantages for provisioning their vessels which were enjoyed by the shipowners of London. At that time the rule was otherwise. For instance, the article of tea could be put on board ships in the Thames, as stores, duty-free; but the advantage was denied to ships in the Tyne and elsewhere. Mr. Hutt caused this anomaly to be removed; and observing that the Custom House (which so little consults the interests of commerce) required that various stores should be supplied in such quantities only as were quite disproportioned to small vessels, or to vessels going short voyages, he caused that grievance to be effectually redressed.

We next find him successfully contending for the repeal of the absurd South Sea duties.

In 1839, Mr. Hutt laid before the public a statement of the wrongs and injuries which British commerce had sustained, since the peace of 1814, by the Stade exactions. Up to that time, the subject had been involved in the greatest obscurity and ignorance. The Congress of Vienna had handed the adjudication of it over to a convention of the Elbe states, to be assembled at Dresden. In that assembly, the British Government was unrepresented; and it was left completely in the dark as to what settlement the states arrived at. To the British merchants, complaining of Hanoverian tyranny and rapacity on the Elbe, the reply of the Foreign Office was, that the right of Hanover to tax commerce had been settled by the Dresden convention. Mr. Hutt determined to examine the correctness of this plea. He commenced by diligently investigating all the records of the Foreign Office applicable to the subject. He then obtained, through the authorities of Hamburgh, an authenticated copy of the tedious minutes of the Dresden convention, and various other documents illustrative of the true position of the case. From these papers he clearly demonstrated, in opposition to the opinion long prevailing in Downing-street, that the Kings of Hanover derived no authority whatever, from the Dresden convention, to levy contributions on the Elbe, and that the right, if recognized at all, must be derived from a treaty made in the seventeenth century, which carefully prescribed and narrowly limited the nature of the tolls. The wrong was now palpable; but previously to applying to Parliament for redress, Mr. Hutt placed the whole case before the public, in the form of a pamphlet. On the 9th of March he followed up this step by submitting to the House of Commons a string of resolutions condemnatory of the proceedings of the Hanoverian Government in the river Elbe. At the request of Lord Palmerston, he withdrew his motion, receiving a pledge from the Ministry that the question should be carefully and immediately investigated. It was investigated. The correctness of Mr. Hutt's views was recognized by the British Government, and measures were taken to enforce them. We have recently stated by what steps this question has been brought to its final conclusion. A treaty, signed by Great Britain and Hanover, came fully into operation on Wednesday last, by virtue of which British interests will be in some measure relieved and protected from Stade exactions hereafter. The treaty does not secure to our commerce and navigation all that Mr. Hutt contended for, but there is no doubt it will be productive of considerable benefit. For this benefit the public are indebted solely to the exertions of Mr. Hutt.

Having successfully loosened the unlawful grasp of foreign power on our German trade, Mr. Hutt undertook a similar investigation of the right by which the King of Denmark taxed our commercial operations in the Baltic. He indulged a hope that he should be able to effect the entire abolition of the Sound tolls. This hope was, however, disappointed. The virtuous Government which ruled the destinies of Britain in 1815, had committed to the sagacity and prudence of the present Marquis of Londonderry the settlement of its dearest interests at the Congress of Vienna. By Lord Londonderry, the ancient and obsolete rights, asserted by Denmark, over the navigation of the Sound, were complacently recognized and renewed. Mr. Hutt therefore resolved to examine what these ancient rights might really be. To a private gentleman, unaided by the smallest official facilities, this was a task of long and severe labour. We believe Mr. Hutt has publicly avowed that he never could have surmounted the difficulty, but for the assistance he received from the Prussian Government and the Swedish Minister (the Count Bjornsterna). His researches were, however, quite successful at last. He was enabled to prove, from authentic documents, that Denmark was exacting much higher rates of tollage than were sanctioned by the treaties to which she appealed for her right to collect toll at all. To prepare and interest the public mind on this subject, he published, at the beginning of 1840, a pamphlet which abundantly exposed the encroachments of Denmark on British rights; and in the month of March in the same year, he brought the whole question under the notice of Parliament. His efforts were crowned with success. Lord Palmerston honestly admitted that Mr. Hutt had made out a strong case for the British Government against Denmark, and promised immediate attention to it. Sir Robert Peel, after several

Digitized by Google

complimentary remarks, recommended that the motion should not be pressed to a division, but assured Mr. Hutt of his hearty coöperation in his undertaking, if he should have occasion to revert to it. After this debate on the Sound Dues, negotiations were vigorously commenced on the subject; and at the conclusion of the year 1840, a treaty was agreed to by the Crowns of Great Britain and Denmark, by which the latter repudiated its former exactions, and consented to confine its tolls to more justifiable limits. A reduction of taxes on British commerce, amounting to 25 per cent., was the result of Mr. Hutt's hard-won victory.

This was Mr. Hutt's last achievement, in the way of practical reform, while Member for Hull. In 1841 he became the representative of Gateshead. Let us see whether he has relaxed his exertions.

In the year 1837, Mr. Hutt published a compendium of the voluminous evidence taken before a Parliamentary Committee of the previous year on Agricultural Distress, together with (as is stated by Mr. Tooke in the last edition of his valuable work on High and Low Prices,) "some very judicious introductory observations." It is a curious circumstance connected with this publication, that while it was hailed by the agricultural party as a valuable aid to scientific cultivation, the free-traders regarded it as an important contribution to their cause. A Committee of the League, sitting at Manchester, applied to Mr. Hutt for a contribution of copies for the purpose of circulation. Mr. Hyde Greg eulogized it both in his speeches and his pamphlets; and we rather think Mr. Cobden himself stood forth as one of its panegyrists. We allude to it, because, in the preface, Mr. Hutt first recommended that plan for releasing our commercial marine from the burthen of the Corn Laws, which he afterwards successfully carried out into a law, in the Biscuit and Flour Act. At that time several abortive attempts had been made, by Mr. G. R. Robinson, the late Colonel Seale, and others, to procure the enactment of a law for a far more limited and questionable advantage — permission to grind flour in bonded premises. Mr. Hutt obtained, in 1841, the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the expediency of adopting a much more comprehensive and beneficial alteration of the Corn Laws. This Committee had not concluded its inquiry when the dissolution of Parliament no doubt put an end to various schemes of legislation. In the next year, however, Mr. Hutt, being Member for this borough, followed up his purpose, and brought in a Bill for carrying it into effect. With much difficulty he persuaded the House of Commons to read this Bill a second time; but, perceiving that the hostility of the corn-law party was too strong for him, and that their next consideration of his Bill would probably prove fatal to it, he induced the Government to refer it to the examination of a Committee. On that Committee Mr. Hutt judiciously placed all of his more prominent and implacable opponents—Mr. Miles, Mr. Pusey, Mr. Wodehouse, and Mr. Christopher; but he established his case so successfully before them, that Mr. Gladstone, who had formerly resisted the proposition, honourably avowed himself a convert to its worth; and Messrs. Miles, Pusey, and Christopher declared that they could offer it no further obstruction. It was adopted, in that same session, by the Legislature.

In 1843, Mr. Hutt brought forward a Bill for facilitating and cheapening the process of naturalization, and for extending the rights which naturalization could confer. The laws of Great Britain on this subject, at the time when the Member for Gateshead took it in hand, had perhaps no parallel, for illiberality and selfishness, among civilized nations. The policy of other states (China excepted) has been to encourage foreigners to resort to their dominions. This policy, we were assured, on the highest authority, had laid the foundations of all the greatness and prosperity of Holland. Great Britain, in defiance of experience and common sense, adopted the reverse system, and treated foreigners (as all barbarous nations have uniformly treated them) with disfavour and contemptuous disabilities. The consequence was, that when foreigners had amassed wealth in this kingdom, they generally withdrew to more hospitable countries to spend it. Several instances of this nature are quoted in Mr. Hutt's Report.

Mr. Griffœuil had lived from infancy in England, where he inherited from his father £50,000 per annum. With this princely fortune he naturally desired to enjoy some of the distinctions of social life. His legal adviser pointed out to him that here it was impossible—that so far from being a Magistrate or Member of Parliament, he could not be a petty constable in England. "Then," said Mr. Griffœuil, "I will go elsewhere: I will not reside in a country where I am required to bear all the burthens, and am yet excluded from all the honours of the state." He disposed of his estate, and went abroad. He now disburses his splendid income among the people of France.

The late wealthy Mr. Hope, of Deepdene, the author of *Anastasius*, whose fine taste did so much for the arts, and whose accomplished literary talents embellished the language of England, is known to have constantly meditated a similar transfer of his fortune and his residence.

Lord Ashburton assured Mr. Hutt's Committee, that in regard to those occupations in the city of London in which foreigners were much employed, this migration, from the same cause, was the ordinary practice of aliens, the moment they had acquired property. And, naturally enough, no man in easy circumstances, however little ambitious, likes to wear the badge of inferiority.

But this kind of absenteeism was not the only penalty which Great Britain paid for her insular and illiberal laws. No foreigners of capital have ever come to settle here, since the disqualifications were laid upon them. Yet, under a wiser system of laws, no country ever gained more than England—not even Holland itself—by becoming the resort of foreigners. It was the refugees from the North of Italy, from the Low Countries, and from France, who were the founders of our manufacturing greatness.

"They brought hither," says Mr. Hutt in his Report, "their wealth, when they had any; but they brought what was of infinitely more consequence—their knowledge, skill, and industry, which they fixed and planted in England; and they abundantly repaid this country, by opening out new and lucrative employments to its industry, for the asylum which the national humanity had accorded them. Since the adoption of the Act of Settlement, which excluded foreigners from all public offices and employments, all such sources of prosperity have been destroyed."

It was to remove these, and other anomalous evils—to make the Alien Laws of England harmonize with her free institutions—that Mr. Hutt introduced his Bill. That Bill was at first disdainfully rejected. Sir James Graham denounced it for its revolutionary tendency; and Mr. Hutt, finding the old leaven of monopoly and prejudice too strong for him in the House of Commons, thought himself lucky in being able to bargain with Sir Robert Peel that the question should be examined, during the session, by a committee of the House of Commons. The Committee, not a very favourable one, was appointed; the investigation took place; and the Member for Gateshead then laid such a case before the Committee and the House, that he completely put down all further opposition. He introduced his Bill again last session, and carried it through both Houses of Parliament, without a voice being heard on the subject, except to speak its praise.

And thus, by a little patient perseverance and honest confidence in a good cause, the whole law and constitutional policy of England since the Revolution, in regard to aliens, has been overturned. A measure of liberality and improvement, which foiled all the efforts of Lords Somers, Sunderland, and Godolphin—upon which even the eloquence of the great Chatham was exhausted in vain—has, in a happier age, been quietly accepted by men of all political parties.

We submit these plain, unvarnished remarks, to the candid consideration of the electors of Gateshead, quite as much in justice to them, as to their representative, Mr. Hutt.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

THE WINDMILL HILLS.

THE Correspondence between the Boroughholders of Gateshead and the Home Office was carried on in Verse, and afterwards perverted into Prose by some tasteless Official, through whose hands it had the misfortune to pass. Happily the originals have been recovered, and are here printed *verbatim*, that the Poet Laureate of the Boroughholders, and his humble imitator, Mr. MANNERS SUTTON, may not be defrauded of the merit which is so justly their due.

THE BALLAD OF THE BOROUGHHOLDERS.

O LISTEN, Sir JAMES, to a story of sorrow,
Concerning our sweet, odoriferous borough;
In which 'tis the honour and glory of *we* men,
To stand for the whole Boroughholders and Freemen.

There's eight of us:—WALKER, WAILES, WATSON, and HONEYMAN;
NICHOL ANDREWS, who is, we must own, a most funny man;
GLAHOLM, and old LISTER and one of his childer,
Though last, not the *least*, Sir, JOHN LISTER the builder.

They have an estate, have these said Boroughholders;
And the weight of its management falls on our shoulders.
Some scandalous folks say the public we're robbing,
But we do nothing worse than a *leetle* bit jobbing.

It is true, as some ill-natured people asserted,
Some paths we obstructed and others diverted;
Which made a few neighbours to grumble and croak, Sir;
Our bits of *diversion*, they swore, were no joke, Sir.

Now one of these men, Sir, he constantly labours
In doing the work of his friends and his neighbours:
He never has time his own faults to be tending,
For the *ways* of the public he always is mending.

This meddlesome Marplot, the Council deluded
To open the footpaths on which we'd intruded;
And the job being left to himself, the old deevil, he
Chuckled and crow'd—did sly Councillor REVELY.

He named for his plot a Guy-Faux-like Committee;
The Council confirm'd it—the more is the pity;
And, sticking at nothing, this confederation,
They forged the QUEEN's name to a mock proclamation!

One morning, soon after, the town was affrighted;
Old women in small clothes were scared and excited;
For REVELY the tagrag-and-bobtail was forming
Into a huge army, our walls to be storming.

He march'd at their head to our fortifications,
With bludgeons and banners and vociferations:
The ringleaders shouted—the rest shouted louder;
And NICHOL's quite certain they smelt of gunpowder!

Now REVELY pretended—but this was mere talking—
No more must be knocked down than LEDGER was chalking;
But—aside to the riff-raff—"The thing that we crave is,
"The *whole* of it down," said "a Mr. R. DAVIS."

"O yes, my brave townsmen, all down you must knock it,"
Cried an Alderman-Justice, a man they call BROCKETT;
And DOUGLAS th' *Observer* man, whispering and winking,
Said, "When the wall's down, won't I set you a-drinking!"

Now in a few moments our wall was a ruin,
But the leaders slunk off while the job was a-doin';
And one of them said, "The *whole* down they are throwing:
"It's all 'going to pot,' and to POTTS's we're going!"

Surveying our fields in this pitiful pickle,
It made us all savage—especially NICHOL:
He bawl'd to his tenant—(as mad as a Ranter he)—
"Aw'll be d——d, JACKY POTTS, if aw build thou that pantry!"

The riot and outrage, Sir JAMES, were appalling,
Folks thought that the Earth all to pieces was falling;
And HYMERS, our leader, so dreaded the varments,
Oh! guess what occurr'd to his best nether garments!

Revenge we demand upon DAVIS and BROCKETT;
Our losses and crosses we never can pocket;
Dismiss the two knaves, is the prayer of your rhymers,
No longer to sit on the Bench with Judge HYMERS!

THE REPLY.

Sir JAMES, having read your long dolorous ditty,
Won't meddle 'twixt you and the Council-Committee,
To tinker a title that's not worth a button:
Don't you wish you may get it, Sirs?—H. MANNERS SUTTON.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google